

CAMPYLOBACTER

DATE OF EXPOSURE: _____

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Your child may have been exposed to Campylobacter. A description of this illness follows below. Should your child develop any of the signs and symptoms below, please consult your child's doctor and notify your child's school.

School policy excludes children with Campylobacter from attendance as long as diarrhea is severe or until 24 hours of medication treatment. Antibiotic treatment shortens period of contagiousness and helps prevent spread of infection, but may not have much effect on the diarrhea. Persons caring for infected children should practice GOOD HANDWASHING TECHNIQUE (soap and hot water).

CAUSATIVE AGENT: A bacterium, Campylobacter jejuni; diagnosed by stool culture.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS: Campylobacter causes a form of gastroenteritis or "stomach flu". Symptoms usually include diarrhea and fever. Vomiting may be present. Often, the diarrhea contains mucus and blood, and the abdominal pain seems especially severe. The illness usually subsides by itself in less than a week.

INCUBATION PERIOD: Two - 11 days--usually less than a week.

PERIOD OF
COMMUNICABILITY: Until diarrhea has stopped or antibiotics have been started.

METHOD OF
TRANSMISSION: Campylobacter is excreted in the stools and spreads via contaminated hands and objects. Lakes and streams can become contaminated with Campylobacter and act as a source of infection. Raw milk and uncooked poultry may contain Campylobacter.