Pointe South Elementary School

**Vision**
The vison of Pointe South Elementary is leading the way and preparing students to compete successfully in a global society.

**Mission**
The mission of Pointe South Elementary is to provide meaningful opportunities for the development of a well-rounded student in a diverse world through partnerships with parents, educators, staff, and community stakeholders.

8482 Thomas Road Riverdale, Georgia 30274

Dr. Charlotte Shoemaker Office: (770) 473-2900 Mr. Rodney Screen

Principal Fax: (770) 603-5774 Assistant Principal

Date: March 22, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**Re: Notification of Norovirus-The Stomach Bug**

Recently, there have been increased cases of Norovirus in the state of Georgia. Norovirus is a highly contagious virus. Norovirus infection causes gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines) which leads to diarrhea, vomiting and stomach pain. Norovirus illness has been called by other names, such as food poisoning and stomach flu.  This illness is not related to the flu (influenza), which is a respiratory illness caused by influenza virus.

Norovirus spreads very easily and quickly, it only takes a very small amount of norovirus particles to make you sick. People with norovirus illness shed billions of virus particles in their stool and vomit which can easily infect others. The virus can spread to others by sharing contaminated foods or drinks, touching contaminated surfaces or objects then putting your fingers in your mouth and/or having close personal contact with an infected person.  A person with norovirus is contagious while they are sick with norovirus illness and during the first 3 days after they recover. Norovirus can spread quickly in closed places like daycare centers, nursing homes, schools, and cruise ships. The norovirus can survive for long periods outside a human host depending on the surface and temperature conditions: it can stay for weeks on hard surfaces and up to twelve days on contaminated fabrics, and it can survive for months, maybe even years in contaminated still water. It can also survive some disinfectants, making it hard to get rid of.

         If you or your child present with symptoms of norovirus illness, drink plenty of liquids to replace fluid loss and dehydration. Seek medical attention if the symptoms persist and/or if a fever occurs.  Antibiotics will not help with norovirus illness because antibiotics do not work on viruses.  There is currently no vaccine in the United States to protect against norovirus. You can lower your risk of infection by doing the following:

* Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using the bathroom and before and after eating and sports activities.  Visit [CDC’s Clean Hands Save Lives!](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/) for more information.
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and soiled items.
* Avoid close contact such as kissing, hugging, or sharing eating utensils or cups.

Charlotte Shoemaker

Principal

Pointe South Elementary School

770-473-2900-office