

Your child may have been exposed to:

Rotavirus

Rotavirus is a viral infection of the intestines.

If you think your child has rotavirus, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Keep your child home from childcare until 24 hours after diarrhea has stopped.

School aged children do not need to stay home, unless they are not feeling well and/or have diarrhea and need to use the bathroom frequently.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Symptoms

Your child may have watery diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Also may have a cough, runny nose, or ear infection. Illness may last 3 to 8 days.

If your child is infected, it may take 1 to 4 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By coughing or sneezing.
- By touching hands, objects, or surfaces that have been contaminated with stool.
- By eating food or beverages contaminated with stool.

Contagious period

The illness can spread as long as the virus is in the stool. A person is contagious for 1 to 2 days before to 3 weeks after symptoms start.

Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the virus. No specific treatment is available.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with the secretions from the mouth or nose or with stool. Wash hands before preparing food or eating. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool or secretions from the nose or mouth. This includes toilets, potty chairs, sinks, toys, diaper changing areas, and surfaces. Use a product that kills germs.
- Ask a health care provider about the vaccines available for rotavirus.