



Metroland file photo

Norovirus is a highly contagious viral illness that comes on quickly and usually resolves within 24 to 48 hours. There are no long-term effects from norovirus. Antibiotics are ineffective, as they are with most viral infections.

Reports of norovirus from across York Region

2 York Region schools have tested positive for norovirus

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York Region Public Health confirmed on Nov. 23 that two York Region schools - one in East Gwillimbury and one in Markham - have tested positive for norovirus.

A school in Georgina, along with daycare centres in Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville and a retirement home in

Vaughan, have reported increased illnesses with symptoms that are typical of a norovirus-like illness.

On Nov. 18, the Regional Municipality of York was notified of an unusually high number of students absent from Thornhill Woods Public School. Parents reported children were experiencing symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, suggesting a possible norovirus outbreak.

A total of 104 students were reported absent that day due to illness. On Nov. 23, 54 students were reported absent due to illness, indicating the outbreak is

under control, according to the region.

"Outbreaks of norovirus and other enteric viruses, those which cause vomiting and diarrhea, are common at this time of year," said Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region's medical officer of health. "In fact, norovirus is the most common cause of gastroenteritis outbreaks worldwide. Norovirus outbreaks are common in semi-closed environments such as schools, childcare centres and retirement homes. The numbers we are seeing across the region are no greater than in previous years."

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