



Dear Parent/Caregiver,

20/02/2024

### **Gastroenteritis – Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School**

The Health Department has been notified of a gastroenteritis outbreak affecting students in the boarding school.

Gastroenteritis (or 'gastro') is an infection of the digestive system and can have many causes. Symptoms of gastro, such as diarrhoea and/or vomiting, usually begin about 24 - 48 hours after exposure to the source of infection but can appear as early as 6 hours after exposure. Both viruses and bacteria can cause the illness.

If you suspect your child/student has gastroenteritis, please do not send them to class or school.

Health Department recommendations state students should be kept at home *for at least 48 hours after their last symptom and their bowel motions return to normal*.

If you need to take them to a doctor for assessment, or because you are worried about dehydration, please ask the doctor to test a stool sample to assist in finding the cause of the outbreak.

Please read the attached fact sheet which contains more detailed information about how you can assist the school in managing this situation.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

For further information please contact the Public Health team on 9781 2359.

Yours sincerely,

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