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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HORACE GREELEY STUDENTS DEVELOP GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS

Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua has alerted the Westchester County Department of Health to the fact that 90 students were absent today out of 1,350 in grades 9 through 12, along with 11 staff members. School officials also said that about 40 students were sent home ill yesterday. On both days, students complained of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. About 16 students were sent home today. Two kitchen staff members were sick yesterday and another three became ill today.

As reported to the health department, the symptoms appear similar to those of the norovirus, a stomach virus that usually clears up on its own after several days. As a precaution, to avoid the spread of the virus, the school administration decided to dismiss students early today at noon.

Virus such as the norovirus can be spread from person to person by touching objects such as door knobs and counters. It cannot be treated with antibiotics. Anyone with the symptoms should stay home, drink fluids and rest and wash hands frequently to avoid spreading the virus to others.

The Health Department has sent two field investigators to the school to advise the staff and the district about appropriate sanitizing procedures the school district will undertake today and over the weekend at all six school buildings to prevent further spread of the virus. School is expected to reopen as usual on Monday.

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