



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

November 6, 2012

Dear Families,

Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, we have been using John Jay High School Campus as an emergency shelter. We are writing to inform you that several children at the shelter are currently experiencing gastrointestinal illness from what appears to be norovirus. Norovirus is a common, but contagious stomach illness that is usually not serious. Most people recover fully in one to two days.

Safety is our top priority, and to that end we will not open the building to staff or students tomorrow, Wednesday, November 7. Students will return to school on Thursday, November 8th.

We are taking every precaution and following Department of Health protocol to ensure your campus is clean and sanitary before it opens for classes. We will be sanitizing all areas, including bathrooms and public areas. All door knobs also will be wiped clean and sanitized. If a student or staff member develops vomiting or diarrhea, they should be sent home and should *stay home until they are well*. Individuals experiencing symptoms should wash their hands well, especially during and after illness. Attached is a fact sheet about viral gastroenteritis, which is generally a mild, self-limited illness.

As always, if you are concerned about your child's physical wellbeing, please call your health care provider.

There are so many New York City residents in need of shelter, warmth and other necessities, which is why our schools have been made available to aid during this time. We appreciate your help and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis M. Walcott". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor