

## Kid-Friendly First-Aid Kit

As the weather turns warmer, kids are able to play more outdoors. Unfortunately, side effects of all that running around can include scraped knees and elbows, head bumps and bee stings. Me4kidz is expanding its first-aid products with the addition of Medibuddy, a kid-friendly and compact first-aid kit that includes a brightly colored carrying case, crayon-shaped bandages, knee and elbow bandages, sting relief pads, gauze pads, antiseptic wipes, burn relief cream, antibiotic ointment and smiley-face stickers. The manufacturer's suggested retail price is \$4.95. For more information, visit [www.me4kidz.com](http://www.me4kidz.com).



## Stomach Flu Vaccine Could Be Possible

A recent discovery by researchers at the UNC School of Public Health may make a vaccine for noroviruses, commonly called "stomach flu," possible. Researcher discovered that the virus mutates genetically, similar to the virus that causes influenza.

Every year, millions of people are infected with noroviruses, often suffering up to 72 hours of vomiting and diarrhea. While most people recover in a few days, the symptoms can lead to dehydration and in rare cases, especially among the elderly and infants, death.

"One of the mysteries of medicine has been why do they keep infecting people when you'd think we'd be developing immunity," says Lisa Lindesmith, one of the lead authors of the study, which was published in the online medical journal *PLoS Medicine*. "What we've found is that the GII.4 arm [of the noroviruses] keeps changing. Whenever we're seeing big outbreaks of norovirus, we're also seeing genetic changes in the virus."

Noroviruses are the leading cause of viral acute gastroenteritis and are highly contagious. There is no treatment to stop the infection.

"Noroviruses are very contagious," Lindesmith says. "It may only take one or two viral particles to become infected. Good hand-washing is critical when the virus is present. A vaccine may someday have an important role, too, especially among the elderly and other people particularly vulnerable to the effects of the illness."

*Myra Wright is the editor of Piedmont Parent, a Carolina Parenting sister publication.*