

Dear Parent/Guardian,

March 11, 2019

In the past few weeks, you may have heard about mumps at a college in Philadelphia. You may have some questions about mumps and whether your child could have a chance of getting mumps.

Mumps is a virus that can spread between people. The virus spreads when someone who is sick coughs, sneezes or talks close to you. We have not yet seen mumps cases spread from the college to our schools. However, there are some main things that we can do to make sure that our schools stay safe and healthy.

The best way to not get the mumps, is to get two MMR shots. The MMR shot is usually given to babies 12-15 months old and again to children 4-6 years old. If your child has not gotten 2 doses of the MMR shot, now is the time to get them up to date. The MMR shot also protects against another important viral illness that is causing outbreaks: measles. There are measles outbreaks in many communities here in the U.S. and in many countries around the world.

Please take this time to look at your child's shot records and make sure they are up to date with MMR. **All shots required for school** and recommended by your child's doctor should be given. Shots required for school are a very important way to help keep your kids and our community healthy. Every student must have their shots up to date. This is the law.

The School Staff will be following the steps below to keep our students healthy:

- Review student shot records to ensure that students are up-to-date on ALL shots. Any student who is not up-to-date should be given their shots as soon as possible. Contact your school nurse if you do not know where to get your child's shots.
- Ask students and staff to always cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve whenever coughing or sneezing.
- If there is a mumps case found at school, any child with mumps will not be allowed in school for 5 days from the time their symptoms began. Students who did not get the shots may not come to school for up to 25 days from the time the school was told. These students are more likely to get sick and spread the virus to others.

Thank you for your understanding. Please contact your school nurse with any questions or concerns.

Certified School Nurse

Telephone Number