



“Durand Area Schools is a Model District Where Students Want to Be”

10/19/18

Dear Durand Parents and Guardians:

A suspected case of viral meningitis has been reported in a student at Robert Kerr Elementary. We are working closely with the health department in response to this situation and have already begun disinfecting rooms in the district where the student or family members have spent time in the last week. We use an atomizer that disinfects and clings to everything to complete the disinfection process. Each room that may have potentially been exposed to the virus will be completely disinfected by the start of school on Tuesday.

Viral meningitis can be caused by several types of viruses and is the most common type of meningitis. The illness is rarely serious and it usually causes fewer long lasting problems than the bacterial form of meningitis. Symptoms may include sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff neck, vomiting, rash, or confusion. The disease is spread through contact with an infected person’s oral or nasal secretions, meaning saliva or mucus. A fact sheet has been included to provide you with more information.

Only a health care provider can diagnose meningitis. ***Children or adults exhibiting symptoms of meningitis should be evaluated by a health care provider immediately.***

We are evaluating the situation to determine any risk to other students and you will be contacted if preventative measures are deemed necessary for your child. Generally, no treatment is necessary for contacts of individuals with viral meningitis. As always, students should continue to practice routine methods for preventing illness including the following:

- Ensuring that all students are up to date on their vaccinations including those that prevent diseases like Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chickenpox, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib), and Meningococcal disease, as appropriate.
- Eating balanced diet and getting plenty of sleep.
- Staying home from work, daycare or school while sick.
- Practicing good hand hygiene by thoroughly washing, including under the fingernails, for a minimum of 20 seconds using soap and warm running water after using the bathroom and before eating.
- Always sneezing or coughing into sleeves or tissues and immediately discarding used tissues in the trash.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 989-288-2681. For further information on Viral Meningitis, please view the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/viral.html>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McCrumb". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Craig McCrumb, Durand Area Schools Superintendent