

September 26, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing to let you know that late yesterday, we received confirmation that several of our High School students have been diagnosed with impetigo, a common and highly contagious skin infection caused by strep or staph bacteria. While the condition is contagious through surface and skin-to-skin contact, it is also highly treatable with antibiotics. All known affected students are currently being treated.

We have not received notice of any confirmed cases at any other district school, but because the condition is contagious, we wanted to inform all parents of the situation and reiterate the importance of good cleaning and hygiene habits to stop the spread of this and other health conditions. Health officials agree that the spread of contagious infections such as impetigo can be stopped through proper and complete handwashing, which we emphasize with our students and staff. The experts also advise that wounds be cleaned and covered and that individuals not share personal items such as footwear, combs, brushes, towels, deodorant, etc. We ask that you share this important information with your children as well.

Signs of impetigo include red sores that quickly rupture and then form a yellowish-brown crust. The sores usually occur around the nose and mouth but can be spread to other areas of the body by fingers, clothing and towels. Itching and soreness occur, but are generally mild. If you have concerns for your child, please contact your health care provider. If you believe someone in your household has a non-subsideing skin infection, please contact your health care provider.

Please be assured that all of our cleaning staff have been trained in the proper procedures for the cleaning and disinfection of school buildings. Our cleaners have appropriate disinfecting and cleaning agents to use when cleaning our schools. While we clean our facilities every day, out of an abundance of caution our facilities staff are continuing to follow procedure with increased vigilance, paying special attention to contact surfaces such as door knobs, counters, physical education equipment, etc.

Please know that our children's safety is a priority and that we are doing all we can to protect all of our children. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools