

North Branch Area Schools

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James D. Fish
Superintendent

10/15/2018


Dear Parent/Guardian,

This communication is to inform you that this afternoon North Branch Area Schools received confirmation that a 10th grade student at North Branch High School has been diagnosed with viral meningitis. This is the first confirmed case of viral meningitis in the high school. I sent an earlier communication about a student in North Branch Elementary School and Ruth Fox Middle School who had contracted the virus. Both students have recovered and are now back in school. We continue to be in communication with the Lapeer County Health Department and have been advised to share the following information as it relates to viral meningitis.

- Any confirmed cases of Meningitis are reported to the Lapeer County Health Department.
- There is one confirmed case in the North Branch Area School District. This student will not return to school until cleared by a doctor.
- Viral Meningitis is the most common type of meningitis, but it is not usually life threatening.
- There are several viruses that can cause viral meningitis but the most common one is the Enteroviruses.
- It is spread by direct contact with an infected person's saliva, nasal mucus or feces.
- If you are infected with the Enterovirus virus you are **unlikely** to develop meningitis as a complication.
- Symptoms of viral meningitis (symptoms usually last 7-10 days):
 - Fever
 - Severe Headache
 - Stiff Neck
 - Sensitivity to bright lights
 - Nausea and Vomiting
 - Lack of appetite
- Symptoms of Bacterial and Viral meningitis are the same, so if you or a family member develop any of the above symptoms **immediate medical attention is needed**.
- Ways to prevent Viral Meningitis:
 - Wash hands thoroughly and often especially after using the bathroom, coughing, blowing your nose or tending to someone else who is ill.
 - Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
 - Don't share drinking glasses, eating utensils, plates or straws.
 - Clean contaminated surfaces ie. door knobs, remotes, countertops, handles, etc.
 - Keep everyone in the household up to date with their vaccinations. Currently there is no vaccine for viral meningitis however, vaccinations included in the childhood vaccination schedule can protect children against some of the disease that can lead to viral meningitis.

We are taking every possible precaution to keep our students healthy and our community informed. Our custodial staff will continue to do thorough cleanings throughout all of our buildings. If you have any questions please refer to www.cdc.gov website or contact the Lapeer County Health Department 810-667-0448 or 810-245-5827.

Sincerely,



James D. Fish, Superintendent