

19/09/2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

UKHSA have been informed of a case of Hepatitis A at the school recently. This letter is just to make you aware at this stage and to provide some advice. Hepatitis A is a viral infection which affects the liver. It is most often seen in children and young adults and is a different disease from Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Please be assured that any health risk is low; Hepatitis A does not usually cause serious illness. It is usually a mild illness in children, who often don't show any symptoms, though they can pass on the infection to others. The infection can, however, be more serious in adults and it's important we take the necessary steps to protect our children and staff members from this infection.

The virus can spread easily within families and where people live closely together and can be passed from person to person by eating food or drinking water containing the virus. The virus is passed out in the faeces (poo) of an infected person and so it is **very** important to **wash your hands** after going to the toilet and/or preparing food.

The symptoms of Hepatitis A are similar to flu, including mild fever, joint and muscle pain, feeling and being sick, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and stomach pain. This can be followed by jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes), dark-coloured urine and itchy skin. Not everyone infected will have all these symptoms.

If anyone in your family develops symptoms of jaundice in the coming 2-6 weeks, please contact your GP and inform the school. Anyone with suspected hepatitis A infection should not attend school until their doctor advises return. This is usually for a period of one week.

For more information on hepatitis A go to:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Hepatitis-A/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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