



EAST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MUMPS ALERT

Important Notice to Parents

December 17, 2014

Mumps is a virus that causes painful swelling of one or more salivary glands, a low-grade fever, and headache. Typically, persons with mumps have swelling of the gland located in the cheek area near the ear and at the back angle of the jaw. Some people with mumps infection have very little or no gland swelling.

Mumps is spread by coughing and sneezing or direct contact with the saliva of an infected person. Symptoms of mumps usually develop 16 to 18 days after exposure, but may develop from 12 to 25 days after exposure.

Please contact your child's health care provider if your child develops any swelling of the glands around the ears or neck. If the health care provider thinks your child has mumps he/she should be tested for mumps and stay home from school.

Severe complications from mumps are rare, but may include inflammation of the brain and/or tissue covering the brain and spinal cord, inflammation of the ovaries and/or breast, sterility, spontaneous abortion, or deafness. Mumps can cause swollen testicles in some teenage and adult males.

Students attending school in Pennsylvania are required to have mumps vaccine or an exemption to vaccination. Mumps vaccine is usually given in combination with measles and rubella vaccine in the form of MMR vaccine at 12-15 months of age with a second shot given at school entry (4-6 years of age).

Please review your child's immunization record to ensure your child has received the appropriate number of mumps or MMR vaccinations. Please contact your child's health care provider or local health department if your child needs a MMR vaccination. Receiving a mumps vaccination now will not provide protection if your child was already exposed to mumps, but should protect him/her if exposed in the future.

If you have further questions about mumps, please contact the school nurse in your child's building.