

October 16, 2014

Health Update – Ebola Virus

Prestonwood Christian Academy is continuing to monitor Ebola virus related events. Our leadership team remains current on developments and reviews information from state, local and federal health authorities. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has outlined specific actions taken in support of the Dallas area. This information can be found on their website, <http://www.cdc.gov/>, under the Ebola Update News tab.

The safety and wellbeing of our students and faculty are of utmost importance, so we are operating with a heightened awareness to minimize risk from the Ebola Virus, Influenza and other communicable illnesses. Much has been done behind the scenes to review our existing health procedures and speak to health care professionals.

You can help by following the guidelines below and leading your family to be more intentional with hygiene practices. Complete details can be found in the 2014-1015 Parent/Student Handbook.

PCA Guidelines - Illness

Sick children (temperature of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, severe coughing, unknown rash, repeated visits to the nurse during the school day) will be sent home from school. For fevers less than 100 degrees, the parent will be called to discuss the child's symptoms and the proper action to take for the welfare of the child and the other students in the school. Students should be free of fever, vomiting or diarrhea for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. Therefore, children sent home from school should not return the next day. Students diagnosed by their doctor with strep throat must have been on antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school.

Children who are sent home with fever or rash will need to check in with the clinic on the morning they return to school before going to class. Do not send a child with a rash to school. If you have concerns about a rash, you should contact your child's physician rather than bringing the child into the school. It will continue to be necessary to keep children with fever home until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

Please be considerate of other students and staff by not sending a child to school with an infectious condition, fever, or persistent runny nose with green mucous, persistent cough, or persistent sneezing. Parents will be called and asked to pick up their child if he or she is sent to school with fever and or vomiting. Parents will be asked to pick up their child if he/she is found to have contracted conjunctivitis ("pink eye") or head lice. Children with bacterial conjunctivitis (pink eye) must have been on antibiotic eye drops for a minimum of 24 hours and must be free of eye drainage before returning to school.

In the case of head lice, the child will be re-admitted to school only after he or she has been treated with the proper lice-killing shampoo and the eggs and live bugs have been combed out.

Children sent home with head lice will need to be checked by the nurse before going back into the classroom. In some cases, a doctor's note may be required before the student returns to school. In the event any student has a communicable disease, the parents are expected to notify PCA, and to re-admit the student only after a doctor has given written permission for the child to return to school.

If your child needs over-the-counter medications (cough drops, pain relievers, allergy medicine) please administer before you leave home rather than expecting our nurses to do it first thing in the morning. Over the counter medications will not be given before 10:00 a.m for students in grades 7-12.

Taking these practical steps will be beneficial to everyone in our PCA Community. We encourage you to stay informed by visiting the Center for Disease Control website.