



Sulphur Springs Independent School District
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Rusty Harden
Director of HR/Communications

October 17, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Sulphur Springs Independent School District follows specific policies and protocols for students and staff who may potentially come into contact with any infectious diseases. SSISD has been in contact with local health departments and is not aware of any such cases. In response to specific infectious diseases, the district may ask new students enrolling in our district or students traveling or who may have relatives traveling from regions known to have been affected by a contagious disease to respond to health related questions. SSISD will continue to work closely with our local, state, and federal public health authorities to continue to monitor new developments related to infectious diseases.

SSISD is committed to keeping our community informed of potential infectious diseases and will make every effort to share this information with parents and teachers. Historically, these communications have involved various strains of Influenza virus. In accordance with recommended precautions during cold and flu season, I encourage you to speak with your children about the importance of practicing good hygiene. Below are a few general tips that you may find helpful:

- Avoid close contact with anyone who may be ill.
- Wash your hands with soap often.
- Do not share food or drinks with others.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- Use hand sanitizers and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces.
- Remain at home if ill or experiencing any symptoms of illness.
- Remain at home for at least 24 hours after any fever is gone.

Additionally, please speak with your child concerning the importance of communicating accurately about infectious diseases. Students should understand that making false statements regarding the existence of illness or disease on a campus could cause an unnecessary panic, result in a false alarm, unnecessary absences and adversely impact learning. False statements are dangerous and could result in criminal prosecution. At least one student in Texas has already been charged with making such a false statement about his campus on Twitter.

If you or any of your family members should come into contact with anyone believed to have been exposed to Ebola virus or experience any symptoms related to the Ebola virus (or any other infectious disease), we urge you to contact your healthcare provider immediately. SSISD takes all matters related to illness seriously, and we ask that you do the same.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns or wish to share any information you believe might be helpful, I hope you will feel free to contact us anytime.

Sincerely,

Rusty Harden