

Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202

March 10, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A case of **Mumps** has been reported at Plainfield South High School. **Your child has had direct exposure to the virus.** Mumps is a viral infection that primarily affects saliva-producing (salivary) glands that are located near your ears. Mumps can cause swelling in one or both these glands.

Mumps is a contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads through saliva or mucus from the mouth, nose, or throat. It is transmitted through:

- coughing, sneezing, or talking,
- sharing items, such as cups or eating utensils, with others
- touching objects or surfaces with unwashed hands that are then touched by others.

Symptoms typically appear 16-18 days after infection, but this period can range from 12-25 days after infection. The most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite
- Swollen and tender salivary glands under the ears on one or both sides (parotitis)

In consultation with the Will County Health Department, we have already conducted an extra cleaning of the school. No identifying information can be shared with staff, students, parents, or the community.

Please also remind your students about the need for basic hygiene, most especially covering their mouths when coughing or sneezing. It is also very important that students wash their hands before any activity that brings hands in contact with the mouth.

Will County Health Department advises that those with mumps symptoms should seek medical attention regardless of vaccination records. If your child is diagnosed with mumps, he/she must stay home from school until your child is no longer contagious.

Please feel free to contact your building nurse with any questions.

Thank you,

Christina Edwards

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