

DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vicki Mims
Superintendent of Schools



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October 11, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On Monday evening, October 10, Dickinson ISD was informed by Galveston County Health District (GCHD) officials that they were investigating a probable case of meningococcal meningitis of a Dickinson ISD employee. **The district has sent a letter from the GCHD to students who may have been in contact with that employee.** If you did not receive that letter, we believe that your child has **not** been in contact with the employee while at school.

According to the GCHD, there is “no cause for alarm” as meningococcal meningitis is not spread by casual contact, but by “direct contact to nose or throat fluids of an infected person,” which can occur by “coughing, kissing, sharing utensils, or drinking after the infected person.” However, it is important that you know the signs and symptoms of meningococcal meningitis, which may include “fever, chills, headache, stiff neck, lethargy, nausea, vomiting, and purple skin rash.” If any of these symptoms appear, please seek immediate medical attention from your health care provider.

For more information about meningococcal meningitis, you may log onto either of the following sites:
www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/meningitis or
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm.

Although your child may not be directly affected by this incident, it is our policy to keep parents informed about significant issues regarding student health and safety. Our thoughts are with the employee and his/her family during this time.

Sincerely,

Vicki Mims
Superintendent