

October 28, 2014

Dear Parents,

With so much media attention, this is an update on Ebola for your information. As the District School Physician, I am monitoring the matter on a daily basis, and consider the likelihood of a case in our area low. This is consistent with an assessment by the NYS Department of Health.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provided the following guidance to assist people in understanding the illness:

- Symptoms compatible with possible Ebola include fever greater than 100.4° F with headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or hemorrhage, but only if they are also accompanied by:
- A potential exposure from traveling to a country with widespread Ebola transmission (to date Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) or having contact with a known or suspected Ebola patient in the 21 days before onset of illness.

Travel to areas known to have widespread Ebola or direct contact with the few people who have been treated in the U.S. for Ebola and their unprotected caregivers are a key part of this disease's spread. Therefore, the likelihood of spread is low.

However, it is still a good idea to continue to remind your children to wash hands when they are dirty, after toileting, before and after eating and, ideally, every two hours, or to use 60% or greater alcoholic based hand sanitizer. Remind them to try to keep their hands away from their faces, and to avoid sharing personal items or food. Our school cleaning staff makes a special effort to clean high touch surfaces on a daily basis.

If your child is sick with a fresh cold or fever, please do not send your child to school and remember to contact the school nurse or attendance office if your child will be absent. Your child's teacher can arrange for make-up work, if needed, but we prefer your child to stay home and recover until they are well enough to attend school all day and are off fever reducing medication.

There are numerous resources available on the cdc.gov/Ebola website that we encourage you to use if you wish to find more information. And remember, your family is at greater risk of influenza illness which can be fatal, than they are for Ebola. Please talk to your private health care provider about the flu vaccine now, in advance of flu season. Have a healthy autumn.

Sincerely,



Cindy Devore, MD
Pediatrician/District Physician