



September 15, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Viral meningitis has been diagnosed at Hillcrest High School.

Exposure may have occurred around these dates: August 21, 2016 – September 13, 2016

Meningitis is the swelling or inflammation of the tissue covering the spinal cord and brain. Both viruses and bacteria can infect this tissue, but viruses are most often the cause. The symptoms are very similar. Although cases of meningitis are more frequent in the summer and fall, they can occur at any time.

Symptoms of meningitis include fever, headache, stiff neck (your child will not want to bend his/her neck to touch the chin to the chest), discomfort when looking at lights, confusion, drowsiness, nausea, and decreased oral intake (drinking and eating).

Meningitis is spread by direct contact with respiratory secretions or by fecal-oral route. Good hand washing always helps stop the potential spread of meningitis and should always be practiced.

If your child has any (or any combination) of the symptoms listed above in the next 10 days, please take him/her to your health care provider immediately for evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Upstate Region Public Health Epidemiology Office at 864-372-3133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Petrofes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Matt Petrofes, MBA
Health Director
Upstate Public Health Region