



Office of Pupil Services
PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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March 30, 2019

Dear Parents of Pennsbury Middle School Students,

We have been informed by the Bucks County Department of Health that a child at **Pennwood Middle School** has met the criteria for a diagnosis of mumps. The Department of Health has asked us to share the following information with families of our middle school students.

Mumps is a viral infection characterized by a non-specific illness including muscle aches, decrease in appetite, tiredness, headache, and fever followed by the sudden onset of tender swelling of the parotid (glands located under the ear and above the jaw bone) or other salivary glands.

Mumps is spread via saliva and respiratory secretions. The average time from when a person is exposed to the time they develop symptoms (the incubation period) is 16 to 18 days. Incubation can range, however, anywhere from 12 to 25 days. All persons are advised to avoid sharing utensils, drinks, food, cellphones, and other electronic devices. Wash hands often, using soap and water.

There is no cure for a mumps viral infection. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that ALL children receive two doses of the MMR vaccine to promote immunity against mumps. If your child is not vaccinated, or is incompletely vaccinated for mumps, please contact your physician or health care provider.

If your child develops any symptoms of mumps, keep him or her at home and contact your physician. If you would like further information on the mumps virus, the Centers for Disease Control's website (<http://www.cdc.gov>) is an excellent resource. Additionally, we have included a link to the CDC's "Information for Parents" on our Pupil Services web page here <http://www.pennsbury.org/Links.aspx>.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Aldridge
Director of Pupil Services