

## Pre/Primary School

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Tuesday 13 June 2017

Dear Parents

A student in our Year 3 class has recently been diagnosed with hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD). HFMD is a viral illness that affects mainly infants and children.

### **SYMPTOMS OF HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

The first symptoms of HFMD are usually fever, sore throat, loss of appetite and feeling sick. Several days after fever begins, small red spots develop in the mouth that may turn into blisters or ulcers. A skin rash can also develop on the hands, feet, and buttocks, and sometimes on the arms and legs. The rash may be raised or flat red spots and blisters. Not everyone with HFMD has all these symptoms.

### **HOW SOON DO SYMPTOMS OF HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE APPEAR?**

Symptoms of HFMD usually appear 3-7 days after initial exposure and infection.

### **HOW IS HFMD SPREAD?**

HFMD is commonly spread by contact with an infected person's stool, nasal discharge, saliva or blister fluid. A person is most contagious during the first week of the illness.

### **HOW IS HFMD TREATED?**

There is no specific treatment. Almost all children with HFMD recover on their own. People with HFMD should rest and drink liquids to prevent dehydration. You may contact your child's health provider for other suggestion on how to treat the disease.

### **HOW CAN HFMD BE PREVENTED?**

Everyone in the household of a person with HFMD should thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water after using the toilet, changing diapers, and having contact with nasal, saliva and blister discharge.

### **WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?**

Children can return to school when their fever goes away and their mouth sores have healed.

Our Campus Manager has been informed and her staff have given the classrooms/ stair well rails/ door handles and toilets a deep clean. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,  
Nurse Yasemin

