



SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

MARK H. LUTTRELL, JR.
MAYOR

ALISA R. HAUSHALTER, DNP, RN
DIRECTOR

HELEN MORROW, MD, MPA
HEALTH OFFICER

10/9/2017

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Your child has been identified as a student at **Memphis Delta Prep School** who was in attendance on **10/3/2017 and 10/4/2017**. During that time, an individual ill with mumps was present in the school. The Shelby County Health Department wants to make you aware of signs and symptoms of the disease, the importance of immunization status, and what to do if you or anyone in your family develops them.

Mumps is a virus that is transmitted through droplets expelled when people cough or sneeze. People may not become ill with mumps until about 2-3 weeks (12-25 days) after being exposed to the virus. Usually mumps begins with coughing, runny nose, and a mild fever. At least one in three people infected with mumps may have no obvious symptoms. A person who has mumps is contagious from two days before to five days after the onset of swelling of the cheek or neck (parotitis).

The most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle Aches
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite
- Swollen neck or cheek
- Swollen testicles or ovaries

Be aware of the symptoms of mumps. If your child develops a fever or swelling of the cheek or neck:

1. **Keep your child at home.** Do **NOT** send an ill child to school or other group events.
2. Contact your child's health care provider and the Shelby County Health Department at (901)222-9243 **immediately.**

We protect others by keeping people with mumps at home and away from others for five days after the onset of facial swelling. For more information about mumps, please read the enclosed fact sheet.

Mumps can be prevented by vaccination. **Two doses of vaccine against mumps are required for school attendance. The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best protection against mumps.** Vaccinated people can get mumps, especially in situations where there is prolonged close contact with someone who has mumps. Vaccinated people normally have much milder illness than those who are not vaccinated. While the illness may be milder, they can still spread the illness to others.

For questions or concerns, contact our Epidemiology Program at (901) 222-9243.

Sincerely,

Alisa Haushalter, DNP, RN, Director

Helen Morrow, MD, MPA, Health Officer

Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health and environment of all Shelby County residents.

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