



Queensland
Government

Metro North
Hospital and Health Service

25 August 2017

Dear Parents and Staff

HEPATITIS A VIRAL INFECTION: PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Recently a person associated with the school had Hepatitis A infection. The risk of spread to other members of the school is considered unlikely, however, it is important that you read the following recommendations.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection which affects the liver and can cause abdominal pain, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), fever, nausea, loss of appetite, dark urine and pale faeces. It usually causes a mild infection in very young children, but can cause a serious illness in older children and adults.

The virus is present in the bowel motions of an infected person. It is spread by the 'faecal-oral route', as described in the attached information sheet. Therefore, the most important way to prevent hepatitis A infection is carefully washing hands with soap and running water after going to the toilet and changing nappies and before preparing and eating food.

The Metro North Public Health Unit has already identified close contacts of the patient and these close contacts have received treatment to protect them from developing symptoms of hepatitis A. Please note at this time further actions are not required for members of the school community.

There is a hepatitis A vaccination available that can provide long term protection against hepatitis A. This vaccine can be given to adults, teenagers and children over one year of age. These vaccines are not free and you are advised to discuss this with your family doctor.

Any child or staff member who has the symptoms of hepatitis A should see their family doctor. Those infected with the hepatitis A virus must be excluded from school until at least seven days after the onset of jaundice or fourteen days after the onset of symptoms related to illness.

The Queensland Health Hepatitis A Fact Sheet is attached and is available at the Queensland Health website at <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/media/pdf/14/217/72/hepatitis-a-v5>

Yours sincerely

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