
NOTIFICATION OF SALMONELLOSIS
(An intestinal disease produced by the Salmonella bacteria)

Dear Parents:

A case of salmonellosis has been reported in your child's classroom.

Incubation period: (the time between exposure to the disease and the appearance of symptoms) 6 to 72 hours.

Contagious period: (when the disease can be transmitted to another person)
During the illness and up to several weeks after.

Signs and symptoms:

Sudden onset of one or more of these symptoms: headache, abdominal pain, fever, diarrhea, nausea, and sometimes vomiting. Children may have no symptoms and still transmit infection.

Treatment:

Fluid replacement when diarrhea or vomiting is present is important. Antibiotics will probably not be used unless complications arise.

How this disease is spread:

Infectious germs leave the body through the stool of an infected person and enter another person when dirty hands, food or objects are placed in the mouth. Salmonella can be found in undercooked poultry and eggs, as well as unwashed raw fruits and vegetables. Turtles, snakes and iguanas may also carry this bacteria.

Control of cases:

Child should be excluded from school until clinical recovery (absence of fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for at least 24 hours).

General prevention measures:

Teach the importance of proper hand washing after using the bathroom, before eating and after handling pets. Wash, peel or cook all raw fruits and vegetables before eating. When washing hands, use soap, rubbing hands together for 15 seconds and rinse in running water.