

A. Ward Spaulding School
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Gina D. Olearczyk, Principal

Jack Ferraro, Assistant Principal

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is to inform you that there has recently been an increase in cases of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease here at Spaulding School. Please see below for important information regarding this Disease.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is an infection caused by the Cocksakie A virus. It has no relationship to Hoof and Mouth Disease. The illness is most common in children under 10 years of age, and is characterized by fever, sores in the mouth and rash with blisters. HFMD spreads from person to person by direct contact with nose and throat discharges, saliva, fluid from blisters, or stool of the infected person. Surfaces contaminated with these substances may also become a source of infection so please watch your child for the symptoms listed below. If your child has the following symptoms, please call your child's healthcare provider for guidance and keep them home.

Common Signs and Symptoms:

- Fever
- Poor Appetite
- Runny Nose
- Sore Throat
- A blister-like rash on the hands, feet and in the mouth usually develops one to two days after the initial symptoms

Students may return to school one week from the onset of symptoms with written documentation from the healthcare provider that the diagnosis was consistent with Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease to rule out the possibility of COVID-19.

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease is considered contagious and is best controlled by diligent hand washing. If you have further questions concerning HFMD, consult your healthcare provider or contact your school nurse.

Thank you,

Gina Olearczyk
Principal

Ashleigh Surprenant, RN, BSN
School Nurse

Spaulding Stars care through respect, responsibility, and kindness.