

## **Parents of Leonard ISD**

We have the following posted to our website under a banner for health news:

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION**

In light of the recent diagnosis of the Ebola virus in Dallas, we wanted to give parents, students, employees, and the community an update on LISD procedures for contagious diseases and sicknesses. There is currently no reason to believe that the situation presents a health concern to Leonard ISD students or staff members.

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you Leonard ISD policies and protocols that are always in place to assist in keeping students healthy and safe and to help prevent the spread of illness within our schools.

#### **Please be reminded of the following:**

- We will isolate students who have symptoms of illness and call parents immediately for them to be picked up.
- If a student has fever, they must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school (this means without the use of fever reducing medication).
- If a student has diarrhea, they must be diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school (this means without the use of diarrhea suppressing medication). Diarrhea is 3 or more episodes of loose stools in a 24 hour period.
- A student must not come to school if vomiting 2 or more times in 24 hours. A student should have 1 or 2 meals without vomiting before returning to school.

#### **Please be diligent in complying with the above protocol. In addition, you can support our efforts by reminding your child to:**

- Wash their hands. Good hand washing is often the best defense to prevent the spread of bacterial and viral illnesses, including common colds, flu, eye infections, etc.
- Do not share drinks, food, cosmetics, or any other personal items.
- Please be assured that our custodial department implements strict guidelines in the cleaning of our buildings. In addition, hand sanitizer dispensers are installed in every classroom.

Leonard ISD will communicate any guidelines or precautions recommended by the local health departments that need to be taken in the event of a public health issue. You may access [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for more information from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) regarding Ebola](#).

Leonard ISD has recently contracted with ***Germblast***, a company that specializes in cleaning, sanitation, and disinfecting all of our campuses, so that the spread of any contagious sickness or disease can be minimized. More information will be sent to parents and *The Leonard Graphic*, our local newspaper later.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE SICKNESSES AND DISEASES**

We at Leonard ISD encourage staff, students and families to practice good infection control practices, including:

- 1. Covering your mouth with your elbow (instead of using your hands) when you cough**
- 2. Good hand-washing techniques**
- 3. Staying home when you are running a fever**
- 4. Refraining from sharing food or drinks**

### **Taking Extra Care for Our Students Sick at School**

Every student reporting an illness to the school clinic will be evaluated by our school nurse. This will include an Ebola screening process including specific protocols for potential cases. Here is what we look for:

1. **Fever AND**

2. **One or more of the following symptoms: severe headache, muscle pain, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhea AND**

3. **Have traveled to Ebola-affected regions (currently identified as Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) OR been in contact with a person they believe may have been exposed to Ebola (parent contact may be necessary to verify this information.)**

**What if?**

**If a patient at school meets ALL of the above criteria,**