

Dear Ayer Elementary School Parents/Guardians,

As you know, Ayer Elementary was made aware that students may have been exposed to Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease.

As you continue to watch your child for symptoms (fever, poor appetite, sore throat, red spots or blisters in the mouth, skin rash), we felt it was important to share our proactive response with you to lessen possible concern.

Upon learning of the possibility of a Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease infection, district administrators immediately notified Hamilton County Public Health and the Ohio Department of Health. Both entities have assured us that Ayer Elementary and Forest Hills School District are using appropriate, proactive precautions to sanitize the school building. Ayer, and all district schools, are cleaned regularly with a broad-spectrum micro-organism-killing solution that is effective against the spread of illness. Custodial crews will thoroughly clean the entire building again tonight. As always, disinfecting soap is provided for use by students and staff.

As a reminder, Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease is spread by direct contact with nose and throat discharge, saliva, fluid from blisters, or stool of the infected person. The spread of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease is prevented by following good hygiene practices:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after your cough or sneeze.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or sleeve. Immediately throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Keep blisters, cuts, and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth to prevent the spread of germs.
- Disinfect surfaces.
- If your student is sick, please keep them home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me; Chris Wolfer, district nurse, at christinewolfer@foresthills.edu; Shelli Muehlenkamp, health aide, at shellimuehlenkamp@foresthills.edu; or your child's healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Todd Hartman
Ayer Principal