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HFMD Explainer

Wednesday May 7th 2025

You have been receiving notices regarding HFMD recently. HFMD is Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease and we have had confirmed cases in the past week in the following classrooms:

- Infant 1
- YT 1 and 2 (combined)
- Toddler 1
- Preschool 1

Asymptomatic spread and the prolonged incubation period of HFMD makes it very difficult to mitigate spread especially in a preschool setting where younger children don't yet have the hygiene standards they develop as they get older.

Another factor that makes it difficult is misdiagnosis – we have had parents get conflicting doctor's notes in the past – one doctor saying it is not HFMD and another one saying it is HFMD; in one case it was the same day by two different medical offices.

Our staff are not doctors, and even medical professionals make mistakes in trying to decipher if a child has contracted HFMD. We do realize that it is frustrating to get a call to pick up your child because he/she is exhibiting symptoms, but we will continue to operate out of abundance of caution. It can be easy to be dismissive of HFMD, especially after encountering a mild case, but in some cases, it can be very severe.

We have been in communication with other schools who are also experiencing increased HFMD cases and comparing notes. We will be cleaning high contact areas throughout the day as well as our existing protocol we enacted in 2020 because of COVID-19. A more aggressive approach will be enacted if we don't see a significant decrease by May 19th – which may encompass parents/siblings/guardians dropping off and picking up at the door as well as staggered classroom entry and quad based learning centers to easily contact trace.