Dear Parent/Guardian,

The health and safety of our students is our priority. For that reason, FCPS is providing some important information regarding communicable diseases and how we can partner with families and community members to safeguard all students.

Many communicable diseases may be present at this time of the year including, but not limited to:

- Common cold, coughs, and sore throats
- Enterovirus D68
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html](http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html)
- Flu, or flu-like illness
- Viral gastroenteritis such as norovirus

Many of these communicable diseases have similar symptoms such as fever, diarrhea and vomiting. Due to media attention, there is increasing concern that students that have one or more of the above symptoms may pose a potential health threat to the school environment, or may have been exposed to Ebola. [http://www.fcps.edu/news/ebola.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/news/ebola.shtml).

To diminish community concern regarding the enrollment of new students, FCPS is implementing a questionnaire, developed in collaboration with the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD), for all students registering for school. This will involve school health aides and nurses determining if recent travel history warrants further investigation.

**Important Facts about Ebola**

Ebola is not spread by simply being in the same room with someone who is infected with the virus. Transmission requires direct contact with an infected person’s bodily fluids, such as blood or secretions, or from exposure to contaminated objects, such as needles.

- You can’t get Ebola through air.
- You can’t get Ebola through water.
- You can’t get Ebola through food.

**Fever is generally the first indication of Ebola**

- People are not contagious until they begin to show symptoms. Symptoms of Ebola include fever (greater than 38.6°C or 101.5°F); severe headache; muscle pain; weakness; diarrhea; vomiting; abdominal (stomach) pain; unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising). Symptoms may appear 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola Virus.
A person who is sick with fever from Ebola is unlikely to feel well enough to go out and interact with others. For this reason, it is highly unlikely that a member of the Fairfax community will be exposed to an individual who is sick with Ebola in public settings.

**What do I need to know about keeping my child home?**

Please partner with us by adhering to the following guidelines regarding keeping your child home when they show symptoms of communicable diseases:

- If your child has a temperature of 100°F Fahrenheit or higher, please keep them at home. All children should be fever free, without fever reducing medication, for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- If your child exhibits vomiting or diarrhea, please keep them at home until they are symptom free for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Seek medical attention for your child if their symptoms do not improve.
- Hand washing and good hygiene practices are imperative year round in the control of communicable diseases. Encourage your child to wash their hands frequently, especially before eating. Remind your child not to share drinks or food with any of their classmates. [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/handwashing/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/handwashing/)
- Remind your child to cough and/or sneeze into a tissue, dispose of the tissue properly, and wash their hands. [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/handwashing/cover_cough.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/handwashing/cover_cough.htm)
- When leaving information on the attendance line, it is very important to indicate if your child has fever, vomiting or diarrhea. This allows FCPS and the FCHD to gather important information regarding the health of its student population.

**What if my child becomes ill at school?**

- Your child will be seen in the health care room. FCPS is working collaboratively with the FCHD to develop protocols for students that may, in very specific cases, need to be isolated until parents or guardians can pick them up.
- Parents or guardians are expected to pick up a sick student within one hour of being contacted by the school. If that is not possible, parents are requested to arrange for an authorized person to pick up the student.
- If it is determined that your child has a fever or shows signs of any communicable disease, you will be contacted and requested to pick up your child and take them home. **Please update all contact information on the emergency care form.**

**What should I do if I need to update my contact information?**

- It is extremely important that school staff have the most up to date and accurate information about your child. The enrolling parent may update information on this form at any time by either contacting the school or accessing weCare@school in the FCPS 24-7 website. [http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/login/?new_loc=%2Fwebapps%2Fportal%2Fframeset.jsp](http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/login/?new_loc=%2Fwebapps%2Fportal%2Fframeset.jsp)
- When parents cannot be reached, it is very important that school staff have contact information for at least two responsible adults who can be contacted in the event of an
emergency. Additional adult family members or friends should be listed in the Other Contact Information section of the form.

- **Please also note that school staff will allow any person you list on this form in the Other Contact Information section to pick up your child from school during the school day in both emergency and nonemergency situations.**
- You may be contacted by the public health nurse regarding travel history or exposure to anyone having traveled in high risk areas.
- The Fairfax County Health Department has an extensive response system in place to determine whether any student poses a health threat or will need to move on to an advanced medical system for further evaluation.

**How will the classrooms be cleaned to protect my child?**

All FCPS personnel adhere to universal precautions when working with students.

The current custodial cleaning procedures for all FCPS classrooms will remain the same. Centers for Disease Control guidelines are followed by FCPS.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school Public Health Nurse at ___________________________ (phone number)

Sincerely,

Principal