Date: April 25, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Coweta County Health Department received confirmation yesterday afternoon that a student at Lee Middle School was diagnosed with suspected mumps.

**Public Health is providing guidance to the school administration as related to notifying parents and providing proper education.**

There is no need for immediate action other than making sure your child has received two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR). Children usually receive the first MMR at 12-15 months of age and the second dose at 4-6 years of age. **If your child has received two doses of MMR, the risks of developing mumps is minimal so there is no need to keep your child out of school.**

Mumps is a contagious viral illness and is spread through direct contact with respiratory droplets or saliva. Sharing cups, utensils, and kissing can spread the virus. Mumps symptoms usually include pain, tenderness, and swelling in one or both parotid salivary glands (cheek and jaw area). General symptoms may come before parotitis (swollen or tender salivary glands), including low grade fever, malaise (tiredness), headache, sore throat, and/or myalgia (muscle aches). Some males may develop orchitis (testicular swelling). Though most mumps cases develop parotitis, some only have general symptoms or no symptoms at all.

The time from being infected with the virus to developing symptoms is typically 16-18 days but can be as long as 25 days. People with mumps are infectious two days before to five days after the onset of parotitis. Infected people without mumps symptoms can still spread the disease.

Vaccination is the best protection against mumps. Children usually receive the first mumps, measles, and rubella vaccine (MMR) at 12-15 month of age and the second dose at 4-6 year of age. If your child has previously been vaccinated against mumps or has had the disease, the risks from this exposure are minimal. However, mumps can sometimes occur even after vaccination.

**If your child develops any mumps symptoms before May 20, 2019, please contact your healthcare provider immediately and inform him/her of your child’s possible exposure.**

Please consider the following Georgia Department of Public Health recommendations:

1. Make sure your child is up to date on mumps vaccinations. Children usually receive the first mumps, measles, and rubella vaccine (MMR) at 12-15 month of age and the second dose at 4-6 year of age.
2. Receiving a mumps vaccine now will not provide protection if your child was already exposed to mumps but should protect him/her if exposed in the future.
3. If your child develops mumps symptoms in the next 25 days, talk to your child’s doctor without delay. Tell him/her that a suspect case of mumps was identified in your child’s school. The Georgia Department of Public Health recommends that a buccal swab for laboratory testing be obtained from all suspect mumps cases.

4. Please alert the school’s nurse right away so that additional mumps identification and prevention measures can be put into action.

5. If your child has mumps symptoms he/she must remain out of school until 5 days after parotitis.

If you or your healthcare provider have questions, please contact Julie Marty at the Coweta County Health Department at 770-254-7400, Melody Wegienka, District 4 Communicable Disease Nurse Coordinator at 706-616-2749 or the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584).

Sincerely,

Olugbenga Obasanjo, MD, MPH, PhD
District Health Director