February 23, 2015

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of the Brentwood Borough School District,

Recently, there has been a multi-state outbreak of measles which has included at least one confirmed case in central Pennsylvania. While there are no confirmed cases in or around the BBSD, questions have been raised regarding the steps that should take place should a case be confirmed. We want to assure our students, parents, and staff that we are diligently monitoring the situation and remain in contact with the Allegheny County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH).

Attached is a fact sheet about measles, a highly contagious viral illness that the majority of our students have been immunized against. The best way to protect against measles is through vaccination (measles-mumps-rubella, MMR shot). Doctors recommend that all children get the MMR shot. We acknowledge that parents have the right to choose not to immunize their children, but want you to be aware of the possible actions a district may have to follow should a case be reported in the district. If you have any questions about your children’s immunizations and/or are interested in immunizing your child now, please contact your primary physician.

Our first concern is the health and safety of our students and staff. This pertains to any illness from the flu, measles, and whooping cough. The Brentwood Borough School District has established and approved protocols, which are followed whenever a student or staff member becomes sick, including when dealing with a potentially contagious illness.

Proper hand washing is another critically important action that a person can take to prevent the spread of germs and bacteria. The District has hand soap dispensers in all of our hand washing sink areas so that the students and staff may frequently wash their hands. In addition, our maintenance staff uses vigorous cleaning techniques throughout all district buildings.

We will remain vigilant in monitoring the status of all illnesses, which could affect our students and staff. A copy of this letter as well as a copy of the PA DOH’s Measles and the Vaccine Fact Sheet will be posted on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact your building nurse with any questions.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Burch, D.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Nancy Kaminski CRNP, CSN
Kristi Thieshen RN, CSN, MSN
Aggie Greer RN, CSN
Brentwood Borough School District Nurses

Resources
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/meas.html#measles
www.health.state.pa.us/pdf/epi/MeaslesFactSheet.pdf