



September 22, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Licking County Health Department (LCHD) has received reports from Johnstown Middle School and Johnstown High School regarding students diagnosed with hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD). LCHD staff is working with school officials to address the cases and control the spread of the virus.

Hand, foot, and mouth disease is caused by several different viruses belonging to the Enterovirus family. It's contagious and causes fever, mouth sores, and skin rash commonly found on the hands, mouth, and/or feet. It's most common amongst children younger than 5 years old and causes mild symptoms which last for 7 to 10 days.

The virus can spread to others through an infected person's

- Nose and throat secretions, such as saliva, drool, or nasal mucus
- Fluid from blisters or scabs
- Feces (poop)

People with HFMD are most contagious during the first week that they are sick. Due to the route of transmission, infected people should:

- Cover mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Do not share items that have saliva or respiratory secretions.
- Avoid close contact with others if possible.

At this time, any students with HFMD can continue to attend school unless they have a fever. LCHD recommends individuals with HFMD and a fever to stay home until the fever subsides and does not return for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Sincerely,

Communicable Disease Team
Licking County Health Department
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