



Merridale Primary School

Aspen Way Wolverhampton WV3 0UP
Telephone: 01902 558760
E Mail: office@merridaleprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Laura Towle
www.merridaleprimary.co.uk

Date: Monday 6th November 2023

Dear parent/guardian

Re: Confirmed Hepatitis A in a member of the school community

I am writing to let you know that there has been a case of confirmed Hepatitis A infection in a member of the school community at Merridale Primary School.

We are working with the UK Health Security (UKHSA) West Midlands, Wolverhampton Council Public Health Team and the local NHS, for advice and support. The public health professionals have advised that while risk of infection to members of the school is low, it is recommended that a number of children and staff should be offered immunisation against hepatitis A, in line with national guidance. **Your child is not part of this group, and this letter is for information only.**

The school premises has been deep cleaned, in line with national guidance.

Health professionals have asked us to take this opportunity to share information about Hepatitis A with parents and staff, so you are aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease.

How you can get hepatitis A

- Hepatitis A is caused by a virus that spreads in poo – which is why good hand hygiene is vital, especially after going to the toilet and before eating or preparing food for yourself or others
- The infection is more common in parts of Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Central and South America.

You can get hepatitis A from:

- drinking unclean water
- eating food that's been washed or grown in unclean water
- eating food that's been handled by an infected person

Symptoms of hepatitis A infection include:

- a high temperature
- flu-like symptoms such as tiredness, headache and muscle pains
- loss of appetite
- feeling sick or being sick

- abdominal pain
- diarrhoea or constipation
- pale yellow or pale grey stools (poo)
- dark brown urine (pee)
- itchy skin – you may also have a raised rash ([hives](#))
- yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes ([jaundice](#))

If your child is showing signs of Hepatitis A, please contact your usual GP (or for out of hours, contact NHS 111) for advice and further investigation.

Information is also available from the NHS website – just search for ‘Hepatitis A’ or click [here](#).

This information is being given as a precaution to parents and staff of all year groups and as a reminder that good hand hygiene, especially after using the toilet, offers protection from a number of infections, including Hepatitis A.

There is no information to suggest that there is spread of the infection in the school, and we would like to reassure you that we will continue to monitor for this infection over the coming weeks, with the support of health professionals.

If you have any questions, you can call the **UKHSA West Midlands West Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3560** quoting **Reference 4427496**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Towle', written in a cursive style.

Mrs L Towle
Headteacher