



10th October 2018

Case Ref: 201174

To: parents and carers of children in Year 2 - 6

Dear parents/carers,

Hepatitis A

We have been informed that two people at Heavers Farm Primary School have recently been unwell with Hepatitis A. Hepatitis A is a virus which causes infection in the liver and is spread in the stool (faeces) of an infected person. Hepatitis A can be spread to others if they share the same environment, for example toilets, or share food with a person who has the infection.

As a precaution, we are offering vaccine to protect against Hepatitis A to some members of the school community, to help prevent spread of the illness. This includes all children in year 1 and reception and some staff.

Only children in Reception or Year 1 classes require vaccination in school.

What about siblings and children in other years?

Our offer is for children in reception and year 1 only. We consider the risk to others in the school is very low and there is no need for vaccination in school.

What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?

The symptoms of hepatitis A develop two to six weeks after contact with the infection. Often hepatitis A does not cause any symptoms, particularly in children, who may not realise that they have had the infection. Most people recover and have no long term problems.

Symptoms can include:

- feeling tired and generally unwell
- joint and muscle pain
- a high temperature (fever)
- loss of appetite
- feeling or being sick
- pain in the upper-right part of your tummy
- yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- dark urine and pale stools
- itchy skin

If you think your child may have Hepatitis A

It is unlikely that you or your child will develop Hepatitis A. If your child or a member of your household develops any of the symptoms above in the coming few weeks, please go to your GP and take this letter with you.

If your doctor diagnoses Hepatitis A

Your GP will notify South London Health Protection Team. They will probably do a test to check what the problem is. People with Hepatitis A need to stay away from school or work until the doctor advises they can return. This is usually for about a week after their symptoms develop.

Our factsheet has more information about hepatitis A and vaccine, or visit the NHS Choices website and search for "hepatitis A". Good hand hygiene is important to reduce the spread of infection.

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Hepatitis-A/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the South London Health Protection Team on 0344 326 2052 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm), quoting reference number 201174.

Kind regards,

Louise Bishop
Consultant in Health Protection