



Important Health Notice: Verified Cases of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease
10/27/2025

Dear St. Stephen Catholic School Families,

I hope this message finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. I am writing to inform you that we have received verified reports of **hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD)** within our school community. While we are taking every precaution to maintain a safe and healthy environment, we encourage all families to be vigilant and take steps to help prevent further spread of the illness.

To help keep our community healthy, please consider the following preventive measures:

- Encourage **frequent handwashing** with soap and water, especially after using the restroom and before eating.
- **Keep children home** if they are experiencing symptoms such as fever, sore throat, mouth sores, or a rash on the hands or feet.
- **Disinfect frequently touched surfaces** such as toys, doorknobs, and countertops.
- Remind children to **avoid sharing utensils, cups, or personal items** and to cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for partnering with us to support the health and well-being of our students and staff. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

In Christ,

Bradley J. Stalder
Principal
St. Stephen Catholic School

ENCLOSED: SICK POLICY



SICK/ILLNESS POLICY

To keep our students healthy and at their best, keep your child home if they are not feeling like themselves. Below are some guidelines on when to keep your child home:

- ✓ Vomiting – keep home until child is vomit free for 24 hours.
- ✓ Diarrhea – If your child is spending most of their time in the bathroom has two or more loose/water stools in 24 hours.
- ✓ Fever – children must be fever-free for 24 hours.
- ✓ Illness being treated with an antibiotic. Depending on the illness, children cannot return on an antibiotic before 24 hours.
- ✓ Lice – children must be lice AND nit free before they can return to school.
- ✓ Unexplained rash – please have any rash diagnosed by the child's doctor before returning.
- ✓ Discharge from eyes – For itchy, pink/red watery eyes, has your child's doctor diagnose before returning.
- ✓ Sore throat – Have your child's doctor diagnose the symptoms before returning.

If your child experiences any of these while in our care, we will call for them to be picked up as soon as possible. Please have a backup plan for your child.