



Wren Elementary School

226 Roper Road ∴ Piedmont, South Carolina 29673

February 1, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This afternoon, Wren Elementary School was informed that one of our students was diagnosed with viral meningitis. Out of an abundance of caution, we are sharing this information with you. While this can be upsetting, the chance of your child also becoming ill with this disease is very small. **Viral meningitis is not the same as bacterial meningitis.** Those who get viral meningitis usually recover completely with rest and fever-reducing medication.

Common symptoms of viral meningitis are fever, severe headache, stiff neck, sensitivity to bright lights, drowsiness or confusion, and nausea and vomiting. These symptoms usually last seven to ten days. It is important to seek medical attention immediately if your child has any of the previously mentioned symptoms. About 90% of viral meningitis cases are due to common stomach viruses. Coming into contact with one of the germs that can cause viral meningitis does not automatically mean a person will contract viral meningitis. In most cases, the germ will simply cause a cold or an upset stomach. Therefore, if you are around someone who has viral meningitis, you have a moderate chance of becoming infected, but a very small chance of developing meningitis.

Though there is no specific prevention for viral meningitis, proper hand washing, thorough cleaning of surfaces and good personal hygiene can reduce the chances of catching viral meningitis or other illnesses. Out of an abundance of caution, the school will be taking extra precaution with its cleaning process. If you have further questions, please contact Summer Wilson, Wren Elementary School Nurse, at 864-850-5950, Lisa Cassidy, Director of Planning and Development at 864-847-7344, or Carmen Bailey, District Lead Elementary Nurse at 864-850-3987.