

[DATE]
[ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP]
[PHONE NUMBER]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A suspect case of mumps has been reported in one of your child's classmates. We are working closely with the Bay County Health Department in response to this situation.

Mumps is a viral illness with symptoms that include fever, headache, fatigue, and swelling and tenderness of glands under the ears and jaw. Symptoms can last 7 to 10 days. Some people may have very mild or no symptoms. In most cases it is a mild disease, but it can cause serious problems like meningitis, deafness and male sterility.

The virus is spread from person to person through saliva or mucus of an infected person from coughing, sneezing, or direct contact. Symptoms first appear 12 to 26 days after exposure to an infected person. There is no "cure" for mumps, only treatment for symptoms including rest, fluids, and fever reducing medications.

Only a health care provider can diagnose and test for mumps. **Anyone exhibiting symptoms of mumps should be evaluated by their health care provider.** 

Mumps can spread before symptoms appear and for 5 days afterward. Children with mumps should be excluded from school or daycare settings for at least 5 days after the onset of symptoms.

A mumps factsheet is included with this letter for your reference. If you have any questions, please contact your family physician or the Bay County Health Department at 989-895-4003.

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE]