

Important Information Regarding the Ebola Virus

From Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD

As you may have heard, a second healthcare worker has been infected with the Ebola virus (EVD). This healthcare worker flew on Frontier flight #1143 from Cleveland to Dallas on Monday night.

We were notified late Wednesday that a family member of an EMS ISD student was on the plane with this healthcare worker. This family member is in the military and stationed at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth. Upon advisement from the military and as a precautionary measure, the family will be isolated for 21 days. This family has one child who attends Lake Pointe Elementary.

It is important to note that according to health officials, individuals are not contagious until symptoms appear. According to statements from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Frontier Airlines, the healthcare worker did not exhibit symptoms during the flight and the risk of exposure for other passengers is low. Reports Thursday morning are controversial regarding whether her low-grade fever would cause her to be symptomatic. What is important to focus on is that no members of this local family are exhibiting any symptoms and are being isolated purely as a precautionary measure. Since no member of the family has presented any symptoms, there is nothing to indicate that the disease has or will be spread.

District officials will be in regular communication with the family as well as officials from the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base. This family's safety as well as the safety of the community is our top priority. We endeavor to keep open lines of communication with our school community regarding any health concerns. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's nurse and/or the district health coordinator, Cheryl Phalen, RN, BS, MA, CACIII, NCSN, cphalen@ems-isd.net or 817-232-0880.

We appreciate your support of the family, our students, and the district.

Updated information Thursday morning, October 16

This update is provided to answer questions we have received in response to the message above.

Q. Who is the student?

A. Due to student privacy laws, we cannot reveal the student's identity.

Q. What is being done to clean Lake Pointe Elementary?

A. The building was disinfected last night with a hospital grade disinfectant. An expanded custodial team met at 6 am this morning at the school to disinfect the building once again. Again, Ebola cannot be spread unless someone comes in contact with bodily fluids of an infected person. The student, nor anyone in the student's family are exhibiting any symptoms of the disease.

Q. Why did the District not close down the school?

A. Our actions in this situation are based upon a number of factors including expert opinion, the fact that it was a family member on the plane, NOT the student, and the potential risk for exposure in our community. Because the student, nor the parent were exhibiting any symptoms and the disease can only be spread if a person has active symptoms, the building did not require "decontamination" or special protective gear.

Facts about the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Facts about Ebola can be found on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>.

<http://www.emsisd.com/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceID=15289&ViewID=7b97f7ed-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=40891&PageID=1>