



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BENJAMIN PARKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

45-259 Waikalua Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

September 16, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Health (DOH) is investigating a hepatitis A case involving an individual who worked in our cafeteria kitchen from Aug. 28-30. We are complying with DOH and taking precautionary measures. Our meals will be prepared off site until further notice.

At Reverend Benjamin Parker Elementary, the health and safety of our employees and students are of utmost importance. While our cafeteria is always run with safety precautions in mind, our kitchen will remain closed until kitchen staff has cleared appropriate health requirements.

According to DOH, all children should have received hepatitis A vaccination as part of routinely recommended childhood vaccinations; a previously vaccinated child would already be immune to hepatitis A infection.

Children who have not previously been vaccinated should be seen by their pediatrician about the possibility of receiving a vaccine or immune globulin (IG), which may provide some protection against the disease if administered within two weeks after exposure. They should also be monitored for hepatitis A infection for 50 days after exposure. Symptoms of hepatitis A infection include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, abdominal discomfort, dark urine, diarrhea, and yellow skin and eyes.

The Department of Education has encouraged all public school employees to follow the public health advisories issued by DOH. We encourage members of our school community to do the same. This includes talking to your healthcare provider about considering vaccination as well as practicing thorough hand washing.

DOH has posted information about hepatitis A on its website at:
<http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/hepatitis-a-outbreak-2016/>.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Kahikina", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathy Kahikina
Principal
Reverend Benjamin Parker Elementary