

Hand, Foot, Mouth Disease (HFMD) is a viral illness and is not uncommon, especially in young children. The number of cases and the severity of cases in Asia is increasing, with the HEV71 strain being associated with life-threatening complications. Many countries have mandatory reporting to their Health Department of any HFMD case.

ISY takes HFMD seriously and has procedures in place to protect our young population. Our first line of defense is you; the child's parent. To protect our population please don't send your child to school if your child has a fever or is not feeling well, has a sore throat, mouth sores and/or blisters/ rashes on hands and/or feet, or buttocks. Please consult with your family physician as soon as symptoms are noted, and stay at home until symptoms end and your family physician releases the child to attend school. Students who have symptoms or diagnosis of Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease should stay home at least a week and avoid crowded places (supermarkets, malls, etc.) to avoid spreading HFMD to others in the community. Please note that it is possible to get HFMD more than once!

Teachers are informed about HFMD and watch students for signs of illness. If ill, students are sent to the ISY Medical Clinic for evaluation. The clinic will communicate concerns to parents if indicators of HFMD are noted and a visit to the family physician for a diagnosis is required. In addition, teachers ask elementary school students to clean their hands each morning, before and after recess and lunch, and after interaction with well used surfaces. Hand sanitizer dispensers are in place throughout the campus and teachers and students are encouraged to use as appropriate. Students are instructed on how to cough and sneeze into their sleeve and to dispose of tissue correctly.

Following World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, classrooms and common areas are cleaned with approved antiseptic solution regularly. If there is any case of HFMD in our school, additional classroom cleaning is done.

To protect all children, if your child is diagnosed with HFMD, ISY requires: 1. please inform the school clinic when a diagnosis is confirmed, 2. a parent must accompany the student when he/she returns to campus, and 3. the parent must provide the ISY Medical Clinic with a written clearance from your primary physician. 4. please bring the written note to Medical Clinic before going to the classroom.

For further information on Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease, please see the links below:
http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/hfmd.information.sheet/en/
<https://www.cdc.gov/hand-foot-mouth/about/index.html>