



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Update for Families: National Meningitis Reports and Local Assurance

You may be aware from recent national news reports of a meningitis outbreak currently centred in Kent. I want to reassure you that there is no pattern of absence or illness at Robert Smyth Academy that gives any cause for concern at this time. Our attendance team continues to monitor our registers closely each day to ensure that any change in local patterns is identified swiftly and responded to appropriately.

Alongside our local monitoring, we are also staying fully up to date on the national picture, including information released by the UK Health Security Agency. To support this, I have spoken directly with a representative from the East Midlands Health Protection Team, who has advised that the situation is being monitored at a regional level and that there is currently no indication of increased risk within Leicestershire based on the data they hold.

Early signs and symptoms

Although the outbreak remains geographically isolated, it is always sensible for families to be aware of the credible NHS early warning signs of meningitis, particularly because symptoms can develop quickly and may appear in any order. According to NHS and UKHSA health guidance, key symptoms can include:

high temperature; cold hands and feet; nausea or vomiting; confusion; rapid breathing; muscle and joint pain; pale, mottled or blotchy skin; or a non-fading rash; severe headache; stiff neck; dislike of bright lights; drowsiness or difficulty waking; seizures. In young people, sudden onset of headache, fever, neck stiffness.

A meningitis rash may appear as red or purple spots that do not fade when pressed with a clear glass, an emergency “glass test” sign highlighted across NHS sources. If a child or young person becomes seriously unwell or displays these symptoms, NHS advice is to seek urgent medical help immediately.

Please be assured that we will continue to take a proactive and cautious approach, keeping our community fully informed should any relevant updates arise. At present, there is no change to routine school operations, and students should continue to attend as normal unless unwell.

If you wish to seek further advice, you should visit the NHS (or UKHSA) websites.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us keep the Robert Smyth community healthy, informed and reassured.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal



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