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TO PARENTS & GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS AT WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents & Guardians

RE: MUMPS

A year 9 student at Whanganui High School has been diagnosed with mumps. The student was at school for three days while infectious, from 15-17 November 2017, and will be past the infectious period by Thursday, 23 November 2017.

If there are further cases we expect them to occur between 27 November and 12 December 2017. Mumps usually starts with headache and fever for two days, followed by swellings on one or both sides of the neck near the top of the jaw. Any student who presents with these symptoms should stay at home and seek advice from the general practitioner. Diagnosis is made by a swab taken from the mouth.

The best protection against mumps is to have two doses of MMR vaccine, which are given at age 15 months and 4 years. Any student who has not had two doses of MMR is eligible for free vaccination and this can be arranged via the general practitioner.

At this stage we are not recommending any exclusion from school, apart from the case. We will review the situation if there are further cases. A fact sheet is enclosed.

Yours sincerely



Patrick O'Connor (Dr)
Medical Officer of Health