

Pioneer High School  
601 W. Stadium Blvd  
Ann Arbor MI 48103  
734-994-2120

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A student at Pioneer was recently diagnosed with viral meningitis. Please be aware that the tests have determined that this student's illness was NOT bacterial meningitis, which is much more serious.

Viral meningitis is more common than bacterial meningitis, less serious, and usually causes fewer long-lasting problems than the bacterial form. Viral meningitis is an infection caused by a virus that results in swelling of the membranes that surround the brain and the spinal cord. Viral meningitis seldom lasts longer than 10 days and recovery is usually complete.

Symptoms of viral meningitis can include:

- Persistent, severe headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever
- Stiff neck and back
- Rash
- Irritability

To help prevent the spread of illnesses such as viral meningitis, it is important to:

- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, before preparing food, and after coughing, sneezing, or wiping your nose.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when you sneeze or cough. Cough or sneeze in your sleeve if tissues are not available.
- Avoid sharing eating utensils or other objects like pop bottles, water bottles, and drinking glasses.
- Keep your student's immunizations up to date.

For your information, reprinted on the back of this letter is a fact sheet about viral meningitis from the Washtenaw County Health Department.

If you have any other questions, please contact your doctor. Thank you for helping up to provide a healthy school environment.