

Friday May 15, 2009

HEALTH UPDATE: Mumps

Dear Parents,

I would like to inform you that a child in Monet class has 'mumps'. Mumps is an infection of the salivary glands, which are located between the ear and the jaw. Mumps usually begins with a fever, headache, tiredness, loss of appetite, and earache. The next symptom to occur is usually swelling and pain on one or both sides of the jaw, giving the child a 'chipmunk cheek' appearance. Please be aware that a child can have the mumps without having swollen cheeks.

Mumps used to be common but its appearance has decreased with the advent of vaccinations. The mumps vaccine is given as part of the combination vaccines with measles and rubella (MMR). This vaccination is a two-step process, with the first vaccination on being given between the ages of 12-15 months and a booster is given between 4-6 years of age. It is important to get this second dose to gain greater immunity. **If your child has not been vaccinated against mumps please see your doctor and get the necessary immunizations.**

If you notice any of the above symptoms in your child, please do not send your child to school and contact your doctor.

For further information I recommend the website: www.kidshealth.org

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you,

Alison

School Health Specialist

health@eclcseoul.com