

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

February 25, 2020

UPDATE FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Contact Deanna Simmons, PIO
850-653-2111



The Florida Department of Health in Franklin County is aware of a press release sent to parents related to viral meningitis. We are working closely in partnership with the Apalachicola Bay Charter School to investigate the matter.

There is **no** cluster or outbreak and the Florida Department of Health does not recommend any building closures related to this situation.

Viral infections are the most common cause of meningitis. Symptoms of viral meningitis include fever, severe headache, stiff neck, sensitivity to bright light, sleepiness or trouble waking up, nausea, vomiting and lack of appetite. Symptoms usually last seven to 10 days and people with normal immune systems usually recover completely.

If you have questions about viral meningitis, you can call the Florida Department of Health in Franklin County for information at 850-653-2111.

Much like flu prevention tips, there are simple steps that can help lower your chances of becoming infected with or spreading viruses:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers, using the toilet, or coughing or blowing your nose;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth and close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean highly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs or the TV remote control, with soap and water and then disinfect them with a dilute solution of chlorine-containing bleach;
- Avoid sharing items such as a drinking glass, water bottles, mouth guards, eating utensils, lipstick, or other such items that come into contact with saliva; and
- Make sure you and your child are vaccinated. Vaccinations included in the childhood vaccination schedule can protect children against some diseases that can lead to viral meningitis. These include vaccines against measles and mumps (MMR vaccine) and chickenpox (varicella-zoster vaccine).

Florida Department of Health in Gulf County

2475 Garrison Avenue • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
PHONE: 850-227-1276 • FAX 850-227-7587

Florida Department of Health in Franklin County

139-12th Street • Apalachicola, Florida 32320
PHONE: 850-653-2111 • FAX 850-653-1727

FloridaHealth.gov



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For more general information about viral meningitis, visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/meningitis/viral-meningitis/index.html>