



## **Mumps - information for contacts**

### **Dear Parent**

There has been a confirmed case of mumps in your child's school John Tonkin College.

Mumps is a viral infection. The symptoms of mumps are fever, headache and swelling and tenderness behind and below the jaw with pain worse with chewing. Some people also get respiratory symptoms, abdominal pain or, in men, swollen and tender testes. Once exposed to mumps it usually takes 16-18 days for symptoms to develop, but it can take from 14 to 25 days to develop.

Mumps virus has been isolated in the saliva of infected persons from 6 days prior to symptom onset, to up to 9 days after. In general, the highest risk of transmission occurring is from 2 days before onset of parotitis (swollen and painful salivary glands) to 5 days afterwards.

### **To protect your child from infection and prevent further cases of mumps in the school, we ask you do the following:**

- You need to be alert for symptoms similar to those described above, until **9/09/2017**. If symptoms develop in your child please see a doctor, preferably your general practitioner (GP), as soon as possible so a diagnosis can be confirmed. The best test to confirm mumps is a mouth (buccal) swab, urine specimen +/- blood test. Take this letter with you. Call the surgery ahead to alert them of your child's symptoms and to allow them to make arrangements to assess you safely and without infecting other people.
- Two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine generally provides good protection against mumps. If you are not sure if your child is immune to mumps, please make an appointment to see your GP to discuss vaccination. Take this letter with you.

### **Further information**

For additional information on mumps is available in the mumps fact sheet attached or visit [www.healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au). You can also phone Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control during business hours on 9222 8588 to speak with a staff member, or discuss this further with your doctor.

Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control Team  
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