



CITY TREE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

First Presbyterian Church • 320 Date Street • San Diego, CA 92101 • (619) 232-3794 • Fax (619) 232-2447

September 18, 2017

Dear Parents,

Many of you have likely heard about the Hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego, and I wanted to share information on how the school is responding to the outbreak. As a downtown school and church, and also one that has the Ladle Ministry serving the homeless community, we are particularly aware of this outbreak. We take it very seriously and work to provide protection to all our families.

In early August, the Ladle Fellowship Director, John Savidge, met with nurses and Public Health officials and implemented specific and targeted sanitation protocols in the limited number of spaces that are used by the homeless population at the church. These protocols include sanitizing all furniture, restrooms, eating trays and utensils, etc. (anything that is physically touched by Ladle guests) with bleach/water sanitizing solutions after every visit. Outdoor areas are also thoroughly sanitized with a bleach water spray after every visit and hand sanitation stations are used for Ladle guests. These are among the primary protocols that are used to minimize contact and spread of germs. Ladle has also implemented an education program at every event: they talk about the virus, educate guests on how it is transmitted, and let them know what they need to do to prevent the spread of infection (handwashing, sanitation practices, Hep A screenings, and vaccinations).

Church and school personnel continue to monitor the situation closely, and will remain proactive by staying in touch with Public Health officials, and carefully following all their recommendations as well as taking additional steps above and beyond.

Proper handwashing is highly effective in eliminating the spread of Hepatitis A. Please take time to teach your child proper methods to wash hands (see back of this letter) and the value of it in reducing the spread of germs. This is also being emphasized at City Tree with teachers providing information to students and establishing regular handwashing routines after using the restroom, before and after meals, and after returning from off campus sites. Our health and safety week, October 23-27, will also provide students with additional education on the spread of disease.

The Hepatitis A vaccination is highly recommended in San Diego County at this time, although not officially required by the state. Most City Tree students are already vaccinated for the Hepatitis A virus, but not all. We encourage parents to carefully review your child's vaccination records and consult your child's physician to ensure your child's health safety in and out of school.

We will continue to be vigilant about the health and safety protocols at our school and church. I welcome your questions and comments. Please feel free to email me at sue.kennedy@citytree.org or stop by the school office to talk.

Sincerely,

Sue Kennedy
Principal