**USD 466 STREP THROAT NOTICE**

**Several cases of Strep Throat have been confirmed in USD 466 Schools.**

**Strep throat is an infection in the throat and tonsils caused by group A *Streptococcus* bacteria. The bacteria are spread through contact with droplets after an infected person coughs or sneezes. If you touch your mouth, nose, or eyes after touching something that has these droplets on it, you may become ill. If you drink from the same glass or eat from the same plate as the sick person, you could also become ill.**

**The most common symptoms of strep throat include:**

* **Sore throat, usually starts quickly and can cause severe pain when swallowing**
* **A fever**
* **Red and swollen tonsils, sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus**
* **Tiny red spots on the area at the back of the roof of the mouth  (the soft or hard palate)**
* **Headache, nausea, or vomiting**
* **Swollen lymph nodes in the neck**
* **Body aches or rash**

**\*\*\*\*However some students have tested positive for strep with no fever.**

**If you see any of these symptoms please see your doctor right away. Students may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and/or fever free for 24 hours.**

**The best way to keep from getting strep throat is to wash your hands often and avoid sharing eating utensils, like forks or cups. It is especially important for anyone with a sore throat to wash their hands often and cover their mouth when coughing and sneezing.**