

January 19, 2018

Dear Horseheads Parents/Guardians:

The district has received notification of a Horseheads High School student testing positive for exposure to tuberculosis (TB). We have spoken extensively with the Chemung County Health Department, and they have assured us that at this time, no public health risk exists. Be assured that both the district and the Health Department are following strict procedures and taking all appropriate measures.


Most people who test positive for exposure to the TB bacteria never get sick and are never contagious. TB is spread through the air, and the bacteria live for only a short period of time. Nevertheless, in an abundance of caution, we are treating this situation aggressively in terms of cleaning and disinfecting all areas the student may have been, using the appropriate state-approved disinfectant. Our facilities staff worked late into the night last evening to aggressively clean buses, classrooms, and other areas of the High School. Additionally, we will continue to have a proactive stance in maintaining a safe, clean educational environment.

The Centers for Disease Control has provided more information about TB at this link:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/faqs/qa\\_introduction.htm#whatistb](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/faqs/qa_introduction.htm#whatistb)

Because of privacy laws, we cannot share specific information about the student. If you have questions, we encourage you to contact your family physician or the Health Department at (607) 737-2028, option #2. As always, please contact your building administrator or school nurse if you have further questions about your school or your child.

Please know that the health and safety of our students is our priority. We thank you for your care and concern for our children.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools