



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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Newburyport - The City Health Department has confirmed that a student at the River Valley Charter School has contracted *viral meningitis*. The Mayors office and the City Health Department urged parents and guardians to remain calm while the City Health Department and State Public Health Department continue to work closely with the River Valley Charter School school to monitor the situation.

Meningitis is an infection of the tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord. *Bacterial meningitis* is the more serious and kills its victim if not treated. *Viral meningitis*, which is the more common type, is caused by an infection by one of several types of viruses and, in most cases, resolves itself on its own. Meningitis can also be caused by infections with several types of bacteria or fungi.

The symptoms of meningitis include a high fever, headache and stiff neck. Other symptoms may include mental confusion, tiredness, vomiting, and a skin rash.

The Mayors Office and the City Health Department will notify parents of any changes in the situation and also advise parents to watch their children for signs of illness and contact the family doctor immediately if such symptoms occur.

For further information on *Viral Meningitis* please go to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Public Health Department web site at <http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/meningitis.rtf> or contact the Kim berly Moore River Valley Charter School at 978-465-0065 or the Robert F. Bracey, Director of Health, City Health Department at 978-465-4410