

Lago Vista ISD Health Advisory Notification
Update and Frequently Asked Questions
October 17, 2014

Shortly after dismissal on October 16th, the District learned that an LVISD family or/families recently spent time visiting a surgical patient at the Texas Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. No LVISD students visited the hospital.

The District has been reassured by the Centers for Disease Control, the Texas Presbyterian Hospital Command Center, and the Austin-Travis County Department of Health and Human Services that there was no risk of exposure. Our goal in notifying families was to be transparent about the situation and to provide assurance as to the safety of students and staff. To further ensure the safety of our students and staff, our custodial and maintenance staff conducted a thorough and deep disinfecting of all District facilities and will continue these processes in the coming days.

Lago Vista ISD has also been in communication with the City of Lago Vista and the Lago Vista Police Department and Lago Vista Emergency Management. City officials have been in contact with both the local health authority and regional emergency management. All entities agree that this situation presents no risk of exposure to the students of Lago Vista ISD, nor is there any risk to community at large. All actions taken by the Lago Vista ISD were precautionary and intended to ensure parents, students, and the Lago Vista community that their safety and well-being are our primary concern.

The following questions and answers will provide additional information for parents, families, and the Lago Vista community.

1. Are surgical patients at Texas Health Presbyterian treated by staff who also treat patients in the isolation unit?
The District spoke directly with the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Command Center last night and was assured that no surgical patient has had any contact whatsoever with the staff caring for the patients in the isolation unit. Texas Health Presbyterian and Dallas County are monitoring employees who provided medical treatment in the isolation unit to ensure that they do not engage in any activities that could potentially put others at risk. Texas Health Presbyterian cannot disclose patient or employee information, but clarified the very intentional separation between the isolation patients and staff from those in the surgical unit. The surgical unit is not in the same building as the isolation unit.

This morning, the District spoke with the Travis County Department of Health and Human Services Epidemiology Unit and was again informed that there is no evidence that other patients at the hospital, visitors, or staff members outside of the isolation unit are at any risk whatsoever. Their number is (512) 972-5555 and concerned families are encouraged to speak to them to receive further clarification regarding questions and/or concerns.

2. Are any local residents who visited Texas Health Presbyterian being monitored for symptoms?
No. The family member(s) that visited the surgical unit are not being monitored by the CDC, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, or the Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services. Lago Vista ISD contacted each of these entities. This has been classified as a no-risk situation by each of these organizations. The precautions taken by the District were not recommended by any of the professional health organizations. We did this out of an abundance of caution for our own peace of mind and for that of our families.

3. Are the student(s) of the visiting family member attending school?
There are no restrictions placed on any students. Again, this has been classified as a no-risk situation by every relevant local and national health organization. The District spoke to the Travis County Department of Health and Human Services Epidemiology Unit this morning. We were again assured that there is no need for any monitoring. They commended the District for the caution with which we handled this notification, but there were no recommendations for action at all.

4. Are the student(s) of this visiting family member being monitored?
These students are not being monitored by any agency as they have not been at risk for exposure according to the CDC, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, or the Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services. There was no recommendation of this action by medical professionals or government agencies.

5. What is the procedure for disinfecting the school? Did the CDC recommend a process?
The maintenance and janitorial staff sprayed a high concentration industrial strength disinfectant throughout the schools covering all areas that are touched, including door knobs, handles, rails, restrooms, weight rooms, etc. Restrooms, water fountains, and door handles will be disinfected multiple times throughout the day. These processes will continue in the coming days. There were no recommendations at all from the CDC, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, or the Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department as they do not consider there to be any risk for exposure. The deep cleaning and disinfecting processes were a decision of the District as an additional measure of precaution to ease the minds of parents, staff, and families.

6. How will we know when the schools have been "cleared"?

The schools are safe and operating normally. There is no monitoring by any agency due to the determination that there is no risk for exposure.

7. What other precautions will be taken for sanitation?

All campuses are equipped with hand sanitation stations, as well as with anti-bacterial soap in the restrooms. All campuses were sprayed with an industrial-strength sanitizer. Our maintenance and custodial staff will continue to disinfect restrooms, water fountains, and door handles several times per day. Again, this is not a recommended action by any health organization; it is a decision of the District.

8. Where may parents find additional information?

We have directed parents to information posted by Texas Health at <http://www.texashealth.org>. We will also post information on the District website, as well as any updates, if necessary.

Additionally, the following resources may be helpful:

[Ebola: What Parents Need to Know](#)

[Centers for Disease Control - Email Alerts Sign-Up](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services - Information on Ebola](#)

[Separating Facts from Fear Regarding Ebola](#)

[Centers for Disease Control - Facts on Ebola in the U.S.](#)

[Fight Fear of Ebola with Facts - The Washington Post](#)

[World Health Organization - Ebola Fact Sheet](#)

Additional Local Contact Information:

Lago Vista ISD

(512) 267-8300

<http://www.lagovistaisd.net>

Lago Vista Police Department

(512) 267-7141

<http://www.lagovistapd.com/>

City of Lago Vista

(512) 267-1155

<http://lagovistatexas.org/>

Austin/Travis County

Department of Health and Human Services

(512) 972-5010

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/health>

Austin/Travis County Department of Health & Human Services

Disease Prevention & Health Promotion Division

Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit

(512) 972-5555

Texas Department of State Health Services

Infectious Disease Control Unit

(512) 458-7676

(800) 252-8239

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/default.shtm>

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital

<http://www.texashealth.org>

(214) 345-6789