



Normandy School District

www.normandy.k12.mo.us · 3855 Lucas and Hunt Road · Saint Louis · Missouri 63121 · 314-493-0400 Phone · 314-493-0475 Fax

Stanton E. Lawrence, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Bel-Nor Elementary
3101 Nordic Drive
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0140

Bel-Ridge Elementary
8930 Boston Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0850

Garfield Elementary
6506 Wright Way
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0740

Jefferson Elementary
4315 Cardwell Drive
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0100

Lucas Crossing Elementary Complex
7837 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0200

Normandy Early Childhood
Kindergarten Complex
3417 St. Thomas More Lane
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0880

Pine Lawn Elementary
2505 Kienlen Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0700

Washington Elementary
1730 N. Hanley Road
St. Louis, MO 63114
314-493-0810

Normandy Middle School
7855 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0500

Normandy Senior High School
6701 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63133
314-493-0600

Normandy Positive Alternative
Learning (PAL) Center
(McKinley School Annex)
6834 Normandale Drive
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-493-0280

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Doug Hochstedler
Telephone (317) 603-5225
doughochstedler@yahoo.com

Status of HIV Testing at Normandy Senior High School

Normandy School District Requests Fair and Balanced Reporting by Media Outlets

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MO – (October 23, 2008) The Saint Louis County Department of Health recently contacted the Normandy School District about a potential health concern involving students in our school district. Information obtained by the Health Department during a routine disease investigation indicated that some students who attend Normandy Senior High School **may have been** exposed to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The Department of Health has discussed the matter with the Normandy School District. Both the department and the district are in the process of implementing a collaborative response to minimize the impact on the students attending school there. The department has begun providing assistance to the Normandy School District in the form of free, confidential HIV testing. The school district has communicated with the students' parents and encouraged them to have open and forthright discussions with their children about the urgency of this situation. In the event families determine that their children may have engaged in any unsafe behavior, both the Department of Health and the Normandy School District are advising that those students be tested.

The Normandy School District calls on media outlets to report on this story in a factual and accurate way, and to resist the temptation to sensationalize this story at the expense of the students and the District. Erroneous media reports have already caused confusion and concern within the community at a time that calls for a calm and thoughtful response that puts the well-being of the students first. Several media outlets have been reporting false information, and the district would like to clarify the following:

- At this point, **only one person** in the initial investigation has been identified as HIV positive.
- There has never been any indication as to whether that one individual who tested positive for HIV is a Normandy High School student.
- There has been no indication that any potential exposure took place at the high school campus site, as has been erroneously reported in the media.
- No faculty or staff members have been identified as having potentially been exposed, as has been erroneously reported in the media.

DESTINATION: WORLD CLASS

In response to this situation, the Normandy School District is conducting an aggressive informational campaign to make certain that all of their students and the families of those students gain a heightened awareness of the HIV threat and its potential impact in the community. Accurate information is the key to protecting students and minimizing the likelihood of a similar situation occurring in the future.

These developments are certainly a concern for the students who may be affected as well as their families, and both the Department of Health and the Normandy School District request that the media and the public respect the privacy of the students and their families at this time. It is also requested that the media and the public not take any action that would interfere with the teaching and learning process at any of the Normandy school campuses. Please understand that existing law prohibits the Department of Health and Normandy School District from releasing any personal or medical information about anyone.

All media inquiries for the District should be directed to the Normandy School District PR Counsel as follows:

Doug Hochstedler
(317) 603-5225
doughochstedler@yahoo.com

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