Memo

To: Members of the Health Department Investigative Staff
From: Director of the Community Health Department

About: Band Student Absences at Truman and Jackson Middle Schools

Thank you for your hard work. You have established that a potential health problem exists at Truman and Jackson Middle Schools. I have informed the principal at each school that you will continue your investigation and keep them informed of your progress.

To help you continue, staff members have interviewed the parents of the absent students. The results of their interviews are summarized in the attached tables (one for each middle school). The tables provide a reason for each student's absence. If a student is sick, the symptoms that the student reports are given in the table. You also can read quotes from some of the interviews. Links to the interviews are provided in the tables.

The principals from Truman and Jackson Middle Schools have sent us school calendars which provide information about the activities of band class students over the past two months. The calendars can be viewed using the link below.


Community Health Department

Messages

Memo

To: Members of the Health Department Investigative Staff
From: Director of the Community Health Department
About: School absences

Principal Perez at Truman Middle School has alerted me to a possible health problem among her students (see attached letter). I need your staff to investigate the situation and determine if a health problem exists in our community.

To get you started, I have arranged to give you limited access to the school district's Web site. You will be able to access school attendance data for each of our community's four middle schools.

Please remember to take notes about your investigation. Each day, you should write your notes on a separate investigative Report Form. The headings for our new investigative Report Forms are:

1. Testable Question
2. Evidence Collected
3. Analysis and Explanation of Evidence
4. Next Questions?

For your first investigation to determine if a health problem exists, you will need to ask a testable question that can be answered by analyzing school attendance data.
Dear Director:

I want to alert you to a possible health problem affecting students at the Truman Middle School. I just had a discussion with the director of our student band. He told me that in his class on Wednesday, May 20th, fully one-third of his students were absent.

This situation reminds me of last year when we had a widespread outbreak of the flu. Can you help us determine if we should be concerned? If there is a problem, can you suggest measures we might take to prevent or contain the disease?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Samantha Perez

Samantha Perez
Principal, Truman Middle School

Announcements

West Nile Virus
As the weather warms up this month, It is time to think about West Nile Virus. Warmer weather means more mosquitoes are around that may carry the disease. To limit exposure to mosquitoes, wear long pants and shirts when in areas with mosquitoes. Mosquitoes breed in standing water. To reduce mosquito populations, drain standing water around your home and change bird bath water weekly.

Annual Memorial Day Picnic
The Annual Memorial Day Picnic is Saturday, May 23rd, starting at 11:00 am at Lakeside Park. Bring the entire family!

Free Cholesterol Screening
All employees can get a free cholesterol test on Tuesday, May 30th, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

Reminder
The Car Seat Safety Check is Saturday, May 30th, from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you want to volunteer to help out with the program.