

**McKinney Independent School District  
School Health Services**

**Viral Meningitis**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Meningitis is an illness in which there is inflammation of the tissues that cover the brain and spinal cord. Viral or "aseptic" meningitis, which is the most common type, is caused by an infection with one of several types of viruses. Meningitis can also be caused by infections with several types of bacteria or fungi.

**SYMPTOMS:** Viral meningitis is serious but rarely fatal in persons with normal immune systems. Usually, the symptoms last from 7 to 10 days, and the child recovers completely. Bacterial meningitis, on the other hand, can be very serious. The symptoms of viral meningitis and bacterial meningitis are the same. Therefore, if you think you or your child has meningitis, contact your health care provider as soon as possible.

**TREATMENT:** No specific treatment is available for viral meningitis