



## MAZAPAN SCHOOL

La Ceiba, Honduras  
Accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
And Honduran Ministry of Education  
Phone: +(504) 2443-2716 Fax: +(504) 2443-3559  
www.mazapanschool.org



August 14, 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you all again for your attendance at last night's General Assembly. It was a pleasure to share with you the accomplishments of our students as well as where we are going next in the 2019-2020 school year!

I hope that you were also able to gain some beneficial information from the talk that was provided by Dr. Sergio Flores from the Secretaria de Salud regarding Dengue. As a school, we remain committed to doing everything we can to provide a safe environment for our students and encourage you to also take the same precautions to protect your family and home. Please note some of the important information shared last night and actions you can take:

- The incubation time from an infected insect bite to symptoms appearing is approximately 4-10 days.
- **Insect repellent is effective for 8-12 hours. Please apply it as a part of your child's morning routine before coming to school** and they will be protected during the school day. However, the doctor expressed that applying too frequently can also be harmful. In order to comply with the professional recommendations we received, we will not be applying it three times daily as originally stated during open house. Students are encouraged to bring extra repellent in their backpacks in case they need to reapply before after school programs.
- A high fever is the initial symptom of the initial stage of the virus and usually occurs approximately a week after a bite from an infected mosquito. In this stage, hydration and panadol are the treatment.
- If anyone presents any alarming symptoms including abdominal pain, vomiting 3 times an hour or continually for 4-6 hours, an accumulation of liquids or extreme lethargy, you should report to a hospital.
- At home, maintain a clean, emptying any containers that may collect water (vases, dog bowls, pilas, drains, gutters, garbage cans)

At Mazapan School, we are taking the following actions as recommended by the Department of Health and the Secretary of Education:



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- Ongoing communication with the health department and ministry of education; following and monitoring the recommendations
- Ongoing frequent and scheduled fumigation of the buildings and campus
- Monitoring and maintaining the grounds and disposal on a daily basis
- Education and training of all staff and additional training for parents in the general assembly in the symptoms and prevention
- Installation of insect trapping lights in each of the bathrooms
- Supervising and encouraging reapplication of insect repellent use
- Ongoing education of students in the actions they can take to prevent dengue including throwing away their trash, using repellent, and covering their body
- Support from the counseling department in reassuring students of their safety and health and the precautions being taken

This is a very important topic and one that we give great attention to, however, we have observed and received reports of an increased fear and panic in many of our younger students who are concerned about all insects the impact of Dengue. We encourage you to continue the conversation at home that our teachers, counseling and nurse have initiated and reassure your children that you, their teachers, and the school are doing all that they can to make sure that they are safe and healthy. Please also reiterate the importance of students doing their part in throwing away their trash and empty cups, applying repellent before coming to school and reporting to their teachers if they feel scared or concerned.

As previously mentioned, we are committed to doing all that we can in collaboration with parents and are open to any recommendations you might have. If you have any additional suggestions or questions regarding dengue prevention, or observe that your child would benefit from additional support from our counseling or health departments, please contact the school office and we will be happy to address your concerns.

In Pelican Spirit,

  
Courtney Brandel  
Superintendent

