

John T. Threet Principal  
Tracey L. Wyatt Magnet Coordinator  
Amber Pinchback Assistant Principal

# West University Elementary School

Houston Independent School District  
*Niche A+ Rated School, Texas Education Agency Exemplary School  
Texas Education Agency Met Standard with Academic Distinction in All Areas  
Children At Risk, Top 1% of Texas Public Elementary Schools  
Children At Risk, Top 10 Schools, Greater Houston Area  
TBEC Honor Roll School, NCEA Higher Performing School  
No Place For Hate School*



Dear Parents,

You may have heard or seen recent news reports detailing the spread of the Ebola virus from West Africa to the United State, specifically Dallas. I understand that you may have questions about what the spread of this disease means to you and your family, as well as how it affects your school community.

I want to first stress that there currently are no confirmed cases of Ebola in Houston, and we have no reason to believe that any of our students are at risk for exposure.

The Houston Independent School District has strong protocols in place that allow us to respond quickly and efficiently when a student becomes sick with a potentially contagious illness. It doesn't matter if we're responding to a case of meningitis, chicken pox, Ebola or simply the flu, our focus, first and foremost, is always on the health and safety of our students and staff.

The Ebola virus, in particular, is transmitted only through direct contact and bodily fluids. You must have had close contact with someone who is infected and showing symptoms or recently traveled to an affected country in West Africa to be considered at a high risk of contracting the illness.

You can rest assured that we are working closely with health officials throughout the city to monitor the status of this virus. If at any point they believe the situation here has changed, they will notify us immediately, and we will take appropriate action.

In the meantime, I encourage you to talk to your children and remind them about the importance of practicing good hygiene, which is our first defense against most illnesses. Below are a few general tips that you may find especially applicable as we approach flu season.

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often.
- Don't share food or drink with others.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces.
- Stay home when you're sick.

For additional information about the Ebola virus, you may want to review the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ebola website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola>. It provides detailed information about the virus and its symptoms, as well as how it's transmitted and who is most at risk.

Should you still have concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our School Nurse Paula Bottecelli, R.N. at 713-295-5215. We appreciate your continued support and will provide you with additional information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Threet".

John T. Threet, Principal

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visit us on the web: <http://westues.org>.

*It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, marital status, religion, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression, or any other basis prohibited by law in its educational or employment programs and activities.*