

Siberian School Closed Due to Pneumonia Outbreak

By The Moscow Times

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A health scare at a school in Siberia sees it close its doors till Dec. 4. Dmitry Abramov

Officials have suspended classes at a Siberian school after 10 students from different grades came down with pneumonia, and doctors are investigating the cause of the outbreak, health officials said Thursday.

The students are being treated at a local hospital in the Krasnoyarsk region, 3,500 kilometers east of Moscow, and their lives are not in danger, the region's consumer protection service said in a statement.

No new cases of pneumonia have been reported since classes at the school in the town of Yermakovskoye were suspended from Monday through Dec. 4, the service said.

Officials are uncertain what caused the outbreak that affected students from eight different grades, the service's spokeswoman Natalya Krasnopeyeva said, Interfax reported.

The initial symptoms of the airborne disease resemble a respiratory infection, but can later lead to further complications, Krasnopeyeva said.

This summer, an outbreak of acute respiratory infection, in some cases complicated by meningitis, killed one child and affected 80 others at a kindergarten in Rostov-on-Don.

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