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LeRoy students with mystery illness speak publicly for the first time

Posted at: 01/16/2012 9:49 PM | Updated at: 01/16/2012 11:27 PM
By: Lynette Adams | WHEC.com



For the first time, we're hearing from LeRoy High School students dealing with a mysterious illness that shows symptoms similar to Tourette's Syndrome.

It's a medical mystery that has baffled the community- 12 seemingly healthy girls began to have seizures and tics.

Thera Sanchez and Katie Krautwurst are telling their stories to the world tomorrow on the Today Show. These two girls, like the others, have kept their silence and avoided the spotlight- but they want help.

Thera Sanchez was a seemingly normal 17-year-old high school senior, ready to finish school and move on with her life. she was active- a cheerleader who loved hanging out with her friends. But that all changed suddenly, when she began having seizures and tics. Now, her dreams may be on hold.

Most days, she can't even get through a school day. "I have never been so controlled in my life. I was always active and everybody was always happy to be around me but I don't feel like myself anymore," says Sanchez.

Sanchez and her friend Katie Krautwurst are among the 12 girls at LeRoy High School who have developed some sort of disorder that looks similar to Tourette's Syndrome.

Experts from the state and county health department, even the Centers for Disease Control, have been searching for an answer. So far, neither Sanchez nor Krautwurst know what's happened to them.

Dr. Edward Lewis is a Rochester pediatrician. He treats children with Tourette's. The LeRoy case has caught his attention. Lewis worries it could be one of the medical mysteries of the brain, and wonders if these girls will ever have an answer.

The New York State Health Commissioner, who was in town last week, said it- and a spokesperson repeated it today: LeRoy High School is safe. Environmental causes or infection have been ruled out as the cause of the students' illness. The health department says all of the students have been evaluated, and some have shown signs of improvement.

Thera Sanchez and Katie Krautwurst will tell their stories Tuesday morning on the Today Show. You can watch see the interviews right here on News10NBC, during Today's 7:30 half hour.

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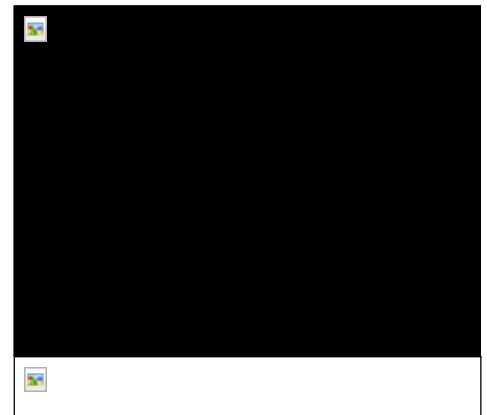
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