

Date

To Parents/Guardians:

Your child may have been exposed to **Chickenpox** (Varicella zoster) at school. It takes between 10 and 21 days after contact with an infected person for someone to develop chickenpox.

As a student, your child would have had one or two Varicella vaccinations prior to entering school. While no vaccine is 100% effective in preventing disease, the CDC says that the chickenpox vaccine is very effective: about 8 to 9 of every 10 people who are vaccinated are completely protected from chickenpox. In addition, the vaccine almost always prevents against severe disease. If a vaccinated person does get chickenpox, it is usually a very mild case lasting only a few days and involving fewer skin lesions (usually less than 50), mild or no fever, and few other symptoms.

If your child has the symptoms below, please call your child's healthcare provider for guidance.

Symptoms usually appear 14-16 days after exposure.

Common Signs and Symptoms:

- Slight fever may be present just before the rash appears
- Itchy, blistered rash that first appears on the trunk (stomach and back), and spreads to the face, scalp, arms and legs
- The rash appears to be small water blisters.

In a day or two, the rash will form crusts that will remain for a few days. As the blisters spread, some will be healing as new ones appear. Your child needs to remain home from school until all the blisters are crusted over (your child is contagious until that time).

Please notify the School Office at _____ if your child becomes ill with chicken pox or if you have any questions or concerns. Further information can be found on www.cdc.gov.

Sincerely,