

Date _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A case of chicken pox has been reported in your child's class. Chicken pox is caused by a virus. It takes 10- to 21 days after exposure to chicken pox for signs of illness to appear. Illness usually begins with a slight fever and generally "not feeling well." A characteristic rash appears beginning on the torso (stomach and back) that spreads to the face, arms, and legs. Skin eruptions look like blisters. As they spread some spots will heal as new ones appear. A child needs to remain home until all the blisters have crusted over or appear as scabs since a child is considered contagious until then. This usually takes 5 to 7 days in unvaccinated children.

Most children have received the chicken pox vaccine; in fact it is required by state law for children born on or after January 1, 1997. Children who have been vaccinated can still get chicken pox, but tend to get much milder cases with only a few spots that heal within a couple of days.

Please keep your child home from school if you suspect chicken pox. Please notify the school if your child gets diagnosed with chicken pox.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

School Nurse