



PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence."

Student Services Department

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October 8, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A child/children at Fogelsville Elementary School *has/have* contracted **chickenpox** and your child may have been exposed. Because the virus that causes **chickenpox** spreads easily, exposed children who have never had the vaccine or the disease will most likely get the disease. Although chickenpox is not usually a serious illness, it can cause severe complications such as pneumonia and can even result in death. Even a relatively mild illness can result in the loss of a week or more of class time for a child.

There is a chickenpox vaccine (varicella) available to help prevent chickenpox and it is recommended for persons older than 12 months of age, who have never had the disease. If your child has already had this vaccine, it should be on his or her shot record as varicella, VZV or chickenpox. The chickenpox vaccine has proven that it can prevent chickenpox or serve to lessen the severity of the disease. Studies have shown that children who have been exposed to **chickenpox** and are vaccinated within 5 days of exposure are less likely to contract the disease. **If your child has not had chickenpox disease OR has not been vaccinated**, please contact your health-care provider to make arrangements for obtaining the vaccination. If your child has had the disease or the vaccine, please ensure that your school nurse has it recorded on your child's school record.

For their protection, immunocompromised children exposed to a case of chickenpox should be kept out of school. If your child is immunocompromised, (i.e. HIV, cancer, leukemia, organ transplant, etc.) contact your child's physician immediately to report the exposure, ask for guidance for returning to school and request a written statement for the school nurse.

If your child does develop chickenpox (even if previously vaccinated with the varicella vaccine), he/she should be kept from attending school until the rash has scabbed over.

Please help us to protect your child and stop the spread of chickenpox in our school. If you have any questions regarding this notification letter, please contact us at **610-351-5800**.

Sincerely,
Brenda DeRenzo
Director of Student Services

Sheri Fredrick-Deeb, RN
Supervisor School Health & Wellness