

[DATE]

[ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP]

[PHONE NUMBER]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A child at [NAME OF SCHOOL OR DAYCARE] has chickenpox. Signs of it are a fever followed by a blister-like, itchy rash. It is very contagious.

By Michigan law, all students need to get 2 doses of the varicella (VAR) vaccine or have a history of having chickenpox. Make sure your child’s immunization record is up to date and sent to the school.

**If your child has not had the vaccine and you cannot provide a proof of having chickenpox before, your child will not be able to go to school until he or she gets their first dose of the vaccine.**

If you choose not to get your child the vaccine, your child will be excluded for 21 days after onset of the last confirmed case. However, if you do choose to immunize your child he/she can be re-admitted after their first dose pending the schedule of an appointment for a second dose. Or you may choose to exclude your child from school until the second dose is given.

In rare cases, people who have had the vaccine can still get the virus and can spread it to others. Most vaccinated people who get it have a more mild case than those who have not had the vaccine.

If your child does develop chickenpox, he or she should be kept home until the rash has crusted over (usually about five days).

If you have any questions please see the fact sheet attached with the letter, contact your health care provider, or the Bay County Health Department at 989-895-4003.

Sincerely,

NAME, TITLE