

# *Crestwood Middle School*

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Bonnie R. Gregory  
Principal

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

A student in Crestwood High School has contracted Varicella (chickenpox) and your son/daughter may have been exposed. Because the virus that causes chickenpox spreads easily, exposed students 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.

There is a chickenpox vaccine 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 son/daughter 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 son/daughter has not had chickenpox disease or been vaccinated, please contact your health care provider to make arrangements for obtaining the vaccination. If your son/daughter has had the disease or the vaccine, please ensure that your school nurse has it recorded on your son's/daughter's school health record.

For their protection, immunocompromised students exposed to a case of chickenpox should be kept out of school. If your son/daughter is immunocompromised (i.e. cancer, organ transplant, HIV, etc.), contact your son's/daughter'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 son/daughter 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 our students and stop the spread of chickenpox in our school. If you have any questions regarding this notification letter, please contact our school nurse, Denise Keiser, at 474-6782, Ext. 309.

In Education;

Bonnie R. Gregory  
Middle School Principal