

Memo



Date: September 2008
To: Parents/Guardians
From: School Health Office and MDH
Subject: Reporting chickenpox and shingles

√ **Please notify the school health office if your child is absent from school due to chickenpox (also called varicella) or shingles (also called zoster).**

Schools are required to notify MDH when chickenpox and shingles occur in students. Tracking chickenpox and shingles helps evaluate the effectiveness of immunization requirements and recommendations.

√ **Please also let the school health office know:**

- Whether a healthcare provider diagnosed your child's illness by lab testing or by examination
- Whether your child has been vaccinated against chickenpox, the date of vaccination and the clinic

Although schools keep children's immunization records, their records of chickenpox shots may not be up-to-date for all students.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated and essential to the efforts of your school nurse and MDH in keeping Minnesota children healthy.

Please note: Information reported by the school to MDH is private and, by law, may only be discussed by MDH staff with the parent or guardian, or the child's healthcare provider. It cannot be shared with others without the parent or guardian's permission. Reporting diseases to MDH is mandated by the Minnesota Communicable Disease Reporting Rule, chapter 4605.