

# Geneseo Community Unit School District No. 228

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Dr. Joni L Swanson  
Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Jack B. Schlindwein  
Director of Operations

Mr. Scott D. Kuffel  
Superintendent

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February 23, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to notify you that we are currently experiencing a chickenpox outbreak at our Middle School. We want all parents to be made aware of this mild outbreak because often our children come into contact with each other in a variety of ways. The Henry County Health Department recommends you protect your child and the school community from chickenpox.

Although chickenpox is not usually a serious illness, it can cause serious complications and can even result in death. Some children who are vaccinated will still develop varicella. These cases, called "breakthrough", are usually mild. Nonetheless, they are still contagious. Because they are mild, they may not be recognized or excluded, therefore leaving more opportunities to infect others, especially those who are at high risk for severe disease and have contraindications for vaccination (e.g. susceptible pregnant women, immunocompromised persons).

The Henry County Health Department recommends that those children who have already received one dose of varicella vaccine receive a second dose of vaccine during an outbreak. If your child has only had one dose of varicella vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider about getting a second dose of varicella vaccine for your child as soon as possible (Health Dept. recommendation). Again, it is important that we do all that we can to stop the outbreak from progressing further.

If your child does develop chickenpox, he/she should be kept from attending school until the rash has scabbed over. This is true even if your child was previously vaccinated. Please help us to protect your child and stop the spread of chickenpox in our schools. As always, feel free to contact your school nurse should you have individual questions. They are here to assist you with providing for your child.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Kuffel  
Superintendent

Cc Regional Office of Education