**LETTER TO PARENTS AND STAFF**

|  |
| --- |
| **Concerning letters to parents and staff:**   * No letters should be sent unless diagnosis has been confirmed by a laboratory test. * Notifiable disease (MADO) must always be reported to the DSPublique (Direction of public health) in order to confirm which measures should be taken.. * No letters should be sent without prior consent of the DSPublique. |

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** **Hepatitis B**

Dear parents,

Dear staff members,

A case of hepatitis B has been diagnosed in your child’s class.

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver caused by a virus. While infected children generally have few or no symptoms, they can be carriers of the virus their entire lives. In the long run, hepatitis B can cause liver damage, including cirrhosis.

Hepatitis B is mainly transmitted through contact with contaminated blood, sexual intercourse, or by an infected mother during childbirth. Hepatitis B virus is not transmitted through the air or by contact with utensils, or by embracing or kissing.

The risk of transmission at school is very low. However, the virus can be transmitted when being bitten by an infected person and there is contact between blood and mucous (for example in the mouth), or by an open wound, or accidental sharing of a toothbrush where blood is present.

All measures to avoid contact with blood or sharing toothbrushes are already in place at school; they are in fact routine preventive measures.

A Hepatitis B vaccine exists and has been administered free of charge to babies since 2013 and to all grade 4 elementary school children since 1994. Since a case of hepatitis B has been diagnosed at the daycare, we recommend that you have your child vaccinated if not already done.

If you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_or attend an information session at the school on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_