**LETTER TO PARENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS**

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| **About letters to parents and staff members:*** Do not send a letter unless the diagnosis has been confirmed.
* Do not send a letter without the CLSC nurse’s approval.
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School or daycare: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject: Chickenpox**

Dear parents and staff members,

A case of chickenpox has been reported at the school or daycare. Chickenpox is extremely contagious. Usually mild, it appears as a rash that is sometimes accompanied by fever and itching. The rash starts as red spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. New blisters can continue to form for a few days. Soon afterwards, the blisters begin to crust over.

Children are contagious for a day or two before the rash appears and until all the blisters have scabbed over. Symptoms will appear two to three weeks after contact with an infected person.

Although chickenpox is generally mild, it can lead to serious complications. People who are taking medications (cortisone, cancer treatments, immunosuppressants) or who have a disease that weakens their immune system (leukemia, HIV) are at greater risk of complications. A pregnant woman who has never had chickenpox or been vaccinated for it should see a doctor after coming into contact with an infected person. We suggest these people contact their doctor right away for advice about preventive treatment.

People who have had chickenpox before or who have been vaccinated for it are considered protected. Unprotected people should consult their CLSC to ask if they should get the vaccine, which could prevent the disease if given quickly after contact with an infected person.

Some people who are vaccinated may experience milder symptoms (shorter infection with fewer blisters and lower fever).

If your child catches chickenpox, do not give them aspirin or ibuprofen. Acetaminophen is the safest way to bring down their fever. To reduce the risk of infection, keep your child’s skin clean. They can return to school or daycare once they feel well enough to participate in their regular activities.

If your child catches chickenpox, please let the school or daycare know.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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

 (block letters)

Tel. no.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_