



Varicella Exposure Letter Template—Immunocompromised Children

The following template may be used by the school principal, nurse, or medical advisor to inform parents and staff about varicella in their school or day care. The letter may be updated as needed and distributed on school/day care letterhead. This exposure letter should be used when a case of varicella has been identified in the school, but there is not an outbreak. This letter should be distributed to individuals who are known to be immunocompromised.

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A **child/children** at our **school/daycare has/have** contracted **chickenpox/shingles** and your child may have been exposed. Because this virus spreads easily, most children who have never had chickenpox will become ill with chickenpox. A relatively mild illness can result in the loss of a week or more of class time for a child. Although chickenpox is not usually a serious illness, it can cause complications and can even result in death.

It is vital that parents of immunocompromised children (i.e., HIV, cancer, leukemia, organ transplant, etc.) contact their child's physician immediately. For their own protection, immunocompromised children will be excluded until the school nurse receives written instructions from the physician regarding whether they may return to school.

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 **school/daycare**.

Sincerely,

Administrator's Name

Administrator's Title

School Name