



South Park High School
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South Park School District

May 1, 2017

Dear South Park High School Families:

A case of chickenpox has been reported to South Park High School administration. A student began to show symptoms of chickenpox while on an out-of-state band trip over the weekend.

The district has been in contact with the Allegheny County Health Department. The information below has been provided by the Allegheny County Health Department.

Those who are unvaccinated, never had a history of chickenpox, are pregnant, or are immunocompromised are at risk for developing disease if exposed. Although chickenpox is not usually a serious illness in children, it can cause serious complications in adults.

Those who have had a history of chickenpox or received the chickenpox vaccine (also known as the varicella vaccine or VZV) are protected from illness and are much less likely to develop chickenpox. If they do develop illness, it is usually less severe.

If your child has not had chickenpox or has not been vaccinated for chickenpox, the Allegheny County Health Department strongly recommends that you contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible to discuss getting the chickenpox (varicella) vaccine.

If your child does develop a fever and a rash, even if he or she was vaccinated or had chickenpox in the past, you should keep him or her home and call your healthcare provider. Do not go directly to a healthcare provider without calling first and letting them know that your child may have been exposed. *If your child develops the chickenpox rash, he or she must be kept from attending school or group settings until the rash has scabbed over.*

If you have any questions, please contact your child's primary care provider or the Allegheny County Health Department at (412) 687-2243.

Sincerely,

David S. Palmer
South Park High School Principal