



FORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
708 Middle Road
Acushnet, Massachusetts 02743



Timothy Plante, *Principal*
Christopher S. Green, *Assistant Principal*

(508) 998-0265 Main Office
(508) 998-0268 Guidance
(508) 998-7316 Fax

Michelle Hoover, *Counselor*
Julie DeSousa, *Counselor*

2/2/07

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is to inform you that there have been documented cases of chicken pox (Varicella) in the 5th grade. Chicken pox is characterized by an itchy rash that looks like tiny blisters that usually starts on the face, stomach, chest or back and spreads to other parts of the body. A mild fever, fatigue, and slight body discomfort usually accompanies the rash.

The Varicella vaccine is a required vaccine through the Department of Public Health and is administered at your child's pediatric visit. However, anywhere from 14 to 30 percent of the people who have had the vaccine will still get the chicken pox (called "breakthrough disease"). If vaccinated people do get the chicken pox, it is usually very mild. They will have fewer spots, are less likely to have a fever, and will recover faster.

Chicken pox is spread through coughing, sneezing or touching the rash of an infected individual. This is a communicable disease that is reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. If your child should be diagnosed with the chicken pox, please call the school to notify us. More information is available on our school website (www.acushnetschools.us/ford). If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school nurses.

Thank you.

Michelle Margeson, RN
Kathleen Plante, RN