



October 27, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff of Vincent Massey Secondary School:

A suspected case of **chickenpox** has been identified within the school community. We are sending this notice as your child may have been in contact with the individual.

It may take **10 to 21 days** from the time a person is first exposed to the virus to break out with the chickenpox rash. **Please monitor your child for 21 days for symptoms of chickenpox.** Symptoms can include a fever and a rash that turns into itchy fluid-filled blisters. Your child may become tired, lose his/her appetite and have a headache. If your child develops these symptoms, contact your health care provider.

The chickenpox virus spreads easily through direct “person-to-person” contact. It is spread in the air when an infected person coughs, talks, or sneezes, and then another person breathes in the virus particles in the air. It can also be spread by touching the fluid-filled rash. Scabs from the healing blisters are not infectious. In order to decrease the spread of illness, hand washing is recommended.

Anyone who has not had chickenpox or has not been vaccinated (with 2 doses) against chickenpox can become sick. Please contact your healthcare provider to confirm if your child is immune to chickenpox or not.

**Pregnant women and immune compromised** individuals who have been exposed to chickenpox should consult with their healthcare provider within 24 to 48 hours of exposure.

For more information on the chickenpox virus, please go to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit website at <https://www.wechu.org>.

Sincerely,

S. Wajid Ahmed, MBBS, MAS, MSc, FRCPC  
Acting Medical Officer of Health