

For Newsletter publication

## **Health Matters...Chickenpox Needs Reporting!**

- **Please notify your school health office if your child is absent from school due to chickenpox (Varicella).**

Within the past year, school nurses are required to notify the Minnesota Department of health when chickenpox occurs in schools. Tracking chickenpox helps prevent/control outbreaks in our schools and community. Reporting and tracking also helps MDH evaluate the effectiveness of immunization requirements and recommendations.

- **Please also let the school health office know:  
If a healthcare provider diagnosed your child's illness as chickenpox or  
If your child has been vaccinated against chickenpox**

Although schools keep students' immunization records, records of chickenpox shots may not be up to date for all students because requirements have changed. Your reporting assistance is appreciated and essential to the efforts of your school health personnel and MDH in keeping all Minnesota students healthy.

**Please note:** Information reported by the school to MDH is private and, by law, may only be discussed with MDH staff with the parent/guardian or the child's health care provider. It cannot be shared with others without the parent or guardian's permission. Reporting diseases to MDH is mandated by the Minnesota Communicable Disease Reporting Rule, chapter 4605.

Questions/comments may be directed to Judy Benke, District Coordinator for Health Services 651-702-8016