



## Buncombe County Health and Human Services

Public Assistance & Work Support Strategies ~ Public Health ~ Social Work Services ~ Veterans Services

Stoney Blevins

Health and Human Services Director

### **EMERGENCY VARICELLA QUARANTINE ORDER**

State of North Carolina, County of Buncombe  
Department of Health and Human Services

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** Asheville Waldorf School

**Date of written quarantine order:** 11/1/2018

To Parent/Guardian:

Over five cases of varicella (chickenpox) have occurred at the above school. Varicella is a contagious infection spread by close personal contact with infected persons. People sick with varicella can develop serious medical problems like pneumonia (lung infection), encephalitis (brain infection), and severe skin infections. These may lead to hospitalization and even death in rare situations. People who get sick with varicella may spread the disease even before they show any symptoms of illness.

Your child named above was last exposed to varicella at school on 10/29/2018. They are not considered protected against varicella, and may become sick with varicella, unless you provide proof of their immunity by meeting one of the following criteria:

- Documentation of at least one varicella vaccination
- Laboratory evidence of immunity to varicella
- Diagnosis or verification of a history of chickenpox illness or herpes zoster (shingles), per a note from a healthcare provider.

North Carolina law (N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 130A-2, 130A-144, & 130A-145) and North Carolina Administrative Code (10A NCAC 41A .0201) allow local health officers (or designees) to prohibit students who are not immune to varicella from attending school or activities outside their home in the setting of an outbreak of varicella. The intent of this quarantine is to decrease the risk of transmission of the illness and protect the health of non-immune students, staff and community members. You may petition the Superior Court for review of the restriction of your child's freedom of movement contained in this quarantine order pursuant to G.S. 130A-145(d).

P.O. Box 7408, Asheville, NC 28802  
(828) 250-5500

[buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org)

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Under the Food Stamp Act and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited also on the basis of religion or political beliefs.

On 11/2/2018, you were directed by school staff and Buncombe County Health and Human Services that your child must be excluded (kept home) from school and activities outside the home until 11/20/18 in order to prevent the spread of this disease.

There are 3 alternatives to exclusion of your child from school and activities outside the home:

- Your child can return to school immediately after they receive a dose of the varicella immunization. The immunization may be available through your child's healthcare provider. It is also available from the Buncombe County Health and Human Services Immunization Clinic at 53 S. French Broad Avenue in Asheville – open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, and no appointment is necessary.
- Your child can return to school if blood tests indicate they have immunity to varicella. Blood tests can be arranged with your child's healthcare provider. It takes several days for results of these blood tests to return. If you choose the blood test, please be aware that your child will be excluded from school until test results show that your child is immune.
- Your child can return to school if they have a signed note from a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant) verifying that they have a history of typical chickenpox illness. The requirements for verification of chickenpox history come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and are very strict. Local healthcare providers have been informed of these requirements.

If you have any questions about the information in this order, you can contact the Communicable Disease staff at Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services at 828-250-5109 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Jannine Shepard, MBA**  
**Health Director**