

Brookfield R-III School District

Jim McIntyre, Board President
Toni Fay, Board Vice President
Jered Wallace, Board Treasurer
Burnie Hicks, Board Member



Galen Hicks, Board Member
Blake DeVoy, Board Member
Mandy Wiedeman, Board Member
Rebecca Stephens, Board Secretary

Teach, Learn, Grow...Every Day.

Dr. Kyle Collins
Superintendent of Schools
124A Pershing Road
Brookfield, MO 64628
660-258-7443
kcollins@brookfieldr3.org

February 7, 2019

Dear Parents(s) and Staff,

This letter is to inform you that a confirmed case of chickenpox has been reported at Brookfield R-III. In addition, there is an additional probable case that has been reported. Therefore, we want to inform parents and staff about possible exposure to this disease.

Chickenpox is a contagious disease caused by a virus. The disease causes a slight fever and skin eruption that looks like a rash with fluid filled vesicles. The disease can be transmitted person to person by direct contact or by respiratory secretions from sneezing or coughing in conjunction with the previously mentioned symptoms. Many younger children have had a vaccine that will impart some immunity to the disease, but even in vaccinated children, it is possible to see the disease occur sometimes in a milder nature. It is important that you as a parent/guardian know about this condition and monitor your child for symptoms.

This disease can be transmitted or spread to others up to 5 days, but usually 1-2 days, before symptoms appear and then until all rash lesions are crusted. All persons that are susceptible to the disease should be watched for 10-21 days after exposure and persons pregnant and susceptible (have not had disease or vaccine) should consult their healthcare provider immediately. Therefore, Brookfield Schools will be monitoring children and staff for the above symptoms. The best way to prevent your child from catching chickenpox is through vaccination. A vaccine is available and is 80%-85% effective against infection and more than 95% effective against severe disease. Your private physician or the Linn County Health Department can assist you if you believe your child is displaying symptoms or if you choose to have your child vaccinated.

Any person who develops or presents to the school with fever (even mild fever) and skin eruption or rash will be sent home. In this case, the student will need to be evaluated by their health care provider before returning to school, and if it is chickenpox, remain home until the lesions have formed dry crusts and the period of contagiousness has passed. If your child has not been vaccinated for chickenpox and additional cases are confirmed, your child may be excluded from school for up to 21 days after the last confirmed case.

If you have questions about this disease speak with your healthcare provider.

Sincerely,
Brookfield R-III Schools in collaboration with the
Linn County Health Department