

Queensbury School

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5th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

This letter is to notify you that a suspected case of shingles has been reported at Queensbury School and that your child may have been exposed.

Shingles is a form of chickenpox. In about 15-20% of persons who get chickenpox, the virus will remain in their body in a part of a nerve near the spinal cord. As a person becomes older, the virus may become active again and cause a local, painful rash along the path of that nerve. This rash is known as shingles.

Because shingles results from an earlier chickenpox infection becoming active again within the person, shingles is not spread from one person to another. However, because the same virus causes shingles and chickenpox, persons with shingles can spread the chickenpox virus.

In persons with shingles, the virus is usually transmitted by contact with fluid from the rash. Those persons who have had chickenpox or have received the chickenpox vaccine are protected against infection from exposure to shingles. Those persons who have not had chickenpox or have not received the chickenpox vaccine are susceptible to infection from exposure to shingles. Susceptible persons develop chickenpox rather than shingles.

Though chickenpox is usually a mild disease, it can be more severe in older persons. For additional information, please speak to your health care provider.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Chris Wilson

Interim Head teacher



Interim Head Teacher: Mr Chris Wilson BSc/MA

