

Chicken Pox (Varicella)

Symptoms: Mild fever and generalized rash that begins on the chest, back, underarms, neck and face. The rash starts out as red bumps and then turns into small blisters. The sores commonly occur in batches progressing at different stages.

Transmission: Person to person by direct contact with the blister fluid or airborne when infected person coughs or sneezes.

Incubation Period: 10-21 days

Contagious Period: 1-2 days before rash begins until all blisters have become scabs

Exclusion from School: Until all blisters have dried into scabs (usually 5-7 days)

Treatment: Contact your Healthcare provider if anyone exposed has a rash and a fever or has not had the chickenpox disease or vaccine (varicella). Since this disease is caused by a virus, there is no specific treatment. The disease needs to run its course and treatment should be aimed at keeping the child comfortable.

DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN OR OTHER SALICYLATE CONTAINING PRODUCTS TO ANYONE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE due to the risk of developing Reye syndrome. There is vaccine available to prevent this disease.

Thank you,

School Nurse