

5/03/2018

CHICKEN POX

Dear Parents

We have been advised of cases of Chicken Pox mainly in the junior area of the school. Even though the majority of students at the school have been immunised, it seems that some are still appearing with a mild case of this illness, so it is important that if your child appears with any spots (there may only be a few) that you visit your doctor to confirm if they are chicken pox.

Our records indicate that there are a large number of students who have not presented the school with records of immunisation. We are endeavouring to contact all families of students who have not been immunised as these children are at the highest risk of contracting the disease.

Chicken pox is a highly contagious infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus, which is a member of the herpes group of viruses. Symptoms of chickenpox take between 14 and 15 days after infection to show.

Symptoms of chickenpox include a rash (spots) that turns into open lesions (small wounds), which crust over. Students will be excluded from school until all blisters have dried, this usually takes at least 5 days after the rash appears in unimmunised children but may be less in previously immunised children. Any child with an immune deficiency should be excluded for their own protection.

The disease is spread by direct contact with people who are infected and it is often more serious in adults.

Chickenpox virus can reactivate many years after the initial infection and cause shingles (herpes zoster).

Women who are pregnant should contact their doctor.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the office.

or

For further information please refer to:

- <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/disease-information-advice/chickenpox-and-shingles>
- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/chickenpox>

Nicky Fammartino
PRINCIPAL