

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a case of chickenpox at school. Most elementary children have been vaccinated against chickenpox and are therefore immune. However, occasionally following exposure a vaccinated child may develop a mild case of the disease. Regardless of vaccination history, if your child develops the chicken pox rash, he or she must be excluded from school as governed by the Allegheny Co. Health Department.

Please review a summary of the ACHD Guidelines below:

Chickenpox

(Varicella)

Incubation and symptoms:

Infectious organism: Varicella - Zoster virus (herpes virus 3).

Incubation (time between exposure and the onset of symptoms): Usually 14 to 16 days; may be 10-21 days; may be prolonged for as long as 28 days after use of Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (VZIG) or shorted in those who are immunodeficient.

Symptoms: Sudden onset of slight fever, generalized itchy skin rash consisting of small blisters which leave scabs. Eruptions occur in crops. Pimples, blisters and scabs may all be present at the same time.

Method of spread :

Direct contact with lesions or droplet/airborne spread of respiratory secretions of an infected person.

Minimum Control Measures:

Period of Communicability: As long as 4 days, but usually 1-2 days before onset of rash/blisters and until all vesicles have dried and crusted (usually 5 days from the last crop of vesicles).

Control: Exclude from school until all vesicles have dried and crusted.

Concurrent Disinfection: Disinfect articles soiled by discharge from the nose and throat, and from lesions

Please feel free to call me (412-854-8508) with any questions and/or concerns.

Bebe George, school nurse