



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

CHICKENPOX (VARICELLA)

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of chicken pox has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County Epidemiology Program at 904-253-1850.

What is Chickenpox?

- Contagious viral rash
- Usually mild, but can be severe
- Vaccine preventable illness

What are the symptoms of Chickenpox?

- Rash, small red spots and bumps blistering over 3-4 days, then forming scabs
- Rash is more noticeable on the trunk than on other parts of the body
- Rash can occur in the mouth, ears and scalp
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Fever

How is Chickenpox spread?

- Direct contact with fluid from the blisters
- From coughs or sneezes of an infected person

How can Chickenpox be prevented?

- Follow recommended Chickenpox vaccine schedule
- Good and thorough hand washing
- Cover coughs and sneezes

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff
- May return after all the blisters have formed a scab
- A healthcare provider's note may be requested

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:
<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>

Attachment E-VI