

## Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Cause: Varicella Zoster (a member of the Herpes family)

Symptoms: Slight fever, rash that starts out as red bumps which turn into water blisters. The blisters crust over after 3-4 days. Rash starts on chest, back, underarms, neck and face.

Incubation Period: 2-3 weeks. It is spread by droplets expelled from the nose and mouth by sneezing, coughing or direct contact with blisters. Child is contagious 1-2 days before developing a rash and until the blisters have developed crusts.

Can child attend school: NO! Child must remain at home until all blisters have dried and formed crusts. Children without symptoms may attend school unless Varicella develops.

**\*\*DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN TO A CHILD WITH VARICELLA\*\***

There is a risk of developing Reye's Syndrome when children take **ASPIRIN** for a viral illness.

Please note: children can get Varicella even though they have been immunized