

# Medical Alert Chickenpox (Varicella)

22 February 2021

We have now had several reports of Chickenpox in the school.

The symptoms are:

- Chickenpox begins with a sudden onset of slight fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and a skin rash.
- The rash usually begins as small lumps that turn into blisters and then scabs.
- The rash appears over three to four days. At any one time, the lesions of the rash vary in stages of development.
- Symptoms usually occur two weeks after exposure to the virus.
- Most people recover without complications, but sometimes the infection can lead to serious complications, such as pneumonia and inflammation of the brain. Rarely, the infection can be fatal.

If you think your child might have Chickenpox, please seek medical advice for treatment.

**All children with Chickenpox should be kept home from school for 5 days from the onset of the rash and all of the blisters have dried.**

For more information from the NSW Department of Health, please visit the link below:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/chickenpox.aspx>