



W. W. ASHURST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NY AND VA DDESS
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09/21/2007

Dear Parents,

There has been a confirmed case of Chicken Pox reported within our school. Please note the following information from the CDC:

Varicella, or chickenpox, is one of the most common childhood diseases. It is caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Most people in the United States get chickenpox while they are still children. Until the late 1990's there were about 4 million cases a year. But now that people are using varicella vaccine, that number has begun to drop.

The most recognizable feature of chickenpox is an itchy rash all over the body. Children with chickenpox can also be drowsy and have a fever.

Chickenpox can be spread very easily from person to person. It is spread through the air, by coughing or sneezing, or even talking. It can also be spread by contact with fluid from the blisters. It usually takes 2-3 weeks from the time a child is exposed to chickenpox virus until he or she becomes ill. The disease is contagious from 1 or 2 days before the rash appears until all the blisters are dried up, which usually takes 4 to 5 days. . .

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

For more information go to <http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/immunizations.cfm> and click on Chicken Pox. Be aware that a pregnant woman who has not had chicken pox or been immunized may be at risk for exposing her fetus to infection. If you are pregnant and have been exposed to Chicken Pox, contact your doctor. Also, please note that while DoDEA is not requiring a second Chicken Pox vaccination, it is recommended by the CDC. If you have more questions feel free to call the Naval Health Clinic Quantico or this office.

Sincerely,

DJ, RN
School Nurse