

CHICKENPOX- a viral illness. It is common for children to get chickenpox. It may be prevented by vaccination.

- **Symptoms**: Your child will have a rash that begins as red bumps and may have a fever. If your child is infected, it may take 10-21 days for symptoms to begin.
- **Spread**: Chickenpox is spread by touching the fluid in the blister or secretions from the nose or mouth. It is also spread by coughing or sneezing.
- **Contagious Period**: Chickenpox is contagious from 1-2 days before the rash begins until all blisters have become scabs. Scabs usually form within 6 days. Children need to stay home until all the blisters have dried into scabs. This is usually by day 6 after the rash began. This is true even if the child has been vaccinated.
- **Call Your Healthcare Provider**: Call your healthcare provider if someone in your home develops a rash with fever. Your doctor will determine if treatment is needed. **DO NOT** go to a healthcare facility without calling first. You will be separated from others to prevent the spread of illness. In addition, you should contact your healthcare provider if someone in your home has been exposed to chickenpox and they have not had the chickenpox disease or chickenpox (varicella) vaccine in the past or are pregnant. **DO NOT** give aspirin or salicylate-containing medicines to anyone under 18 years of age.
- **Prevention**: In Missouri, all children 12 months and older attending childcare or school must be vaccinated with varicella vaccine, have history of disease, or have an exemption. You should cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing by using your sleeve or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues. Wash your hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose and mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing. Use a product that kills viruses to clean and disinfect any object or surface that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth.

Source- Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents or Guardians; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services-Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention)