



12 Feb 2020

PHE Case Record Number: 219240

Chickenpox

Dear parent/guardian, staff member

For your information, 4 children attending Curwen School have had chickenpox recently. Chickenpox is a normal childhood illness and most people born in the UK acquire the infection in childhood.

Chickenpox is spread very easily. Having a conversation with someone with chickenpox or being in the same room as them for 15 minutes or more is long enough to catch the infection.

Once someone has had Chickenpox infection they will not get the infection again. However, chickenpox can lead to complications for pregnant women who have never had the infection before. Also people who are on immunosuppressive treatment for cancer, following an organ transplant, or as a result of another condition might be at risk of infection with complications.

If your child has not already had chickenpox, please look carefully for signs and symptoms. If your child develops a rash or any spots please keep your child at home from school and away from pregnant and vulnerable contacts until the spots have crusted over (usually about 5 days).

If your child develops chickenpox and you or someone else in the household is pregnant and not immune or has a condition or are on treatment which suppresses immunity to infection please contact your GP/midwife for advice as soon as possible.

If you are a member of staff who is pregnant and not immune (never had chickenpox), or have a condition or are on treatment which suppresses immunity to infection and you have been in contact with someone with chickenpox please contact your GP/midwife for advice as soon as possible.

For parents who feel they would like more information on chickenpox, information can also be sourced from NHS 111 or NHS Choices via the internet at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/pages/introduction.aspx>.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sudy Anaraki
Consultant in Communicable Disease Control
E necl.team@phe.gov.uk

