

# Chickenpox

(Varicella)

West Moreton Public Health Unit has been advised of a case of chickenpox at your school/child care centre.

## Symptoms of chickenpox



fever

runny nose  
and cough

fatigue



itchy rash

Chicken pox is  
easily spread

Chickenpox can be spread by:



Coughing and contact with  
nasal secretions



Contact with fluid from  
the blister rash

Chickenpox can be spread up to two  
days before the blister rash appears.

It can take up to two weeks for  
illness to develop following contact  
with a person with chickenpox.

## STOP THE SPREAD OF CHICKENPOX



### Keep sick kids at home

Children with symptoms of chickenpox should stay at home until all the blisters have dried up. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash appears in unimmunised people and less in immunised people



### Wash your hands

well and often using soap, especially after coughing, sneezing or contact with skin blisters



### Cover coughs and sneezes

with a tissue, throw the tissue in the bin then wash your hands



### Consider vaccination status

Queensland Health currently provides one free varicella vaccine for all children at age 18 months (with catch up vaccinations available for up to 20 years old). Two varicella vaccinations however, provide increased protection and minimises the chance of break through chickenpox in children. Please contact your doctor if you wish to discuss further vaccination as a protection for possible ongoing exposures.

If your child is unwell,  
**please see your doctor**



#### Note to doctor:

When requesting swab PCR for varicella, please request a copy of the result goes to West Moreton Public Health Unit (specifying the child care centre/school)



### Pregnant women and people with lowered immunity

who have been in contact with a case of chickenpox should see their doctor as soon as possible for advice on potential intervention.

For more information see the QR fact sheet at:  
[conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/23/Chickenpox-Varicella](https://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/23/Chickenpox-Varicella)

We thank the school/child care centre and those affected for their assistance in this public health matter.

Please contact the West Moreton Public Health Unit for further information.

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