



AVALON STONE HARBOR SCHOOLS

Stacey LaRocca Tracy
Chief School Administrator

Renee Murtaugh
Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction

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Business Administrator

Parents/Guardians,

The Health Office is sending this to notify you that chicken pox (varicella) has been reported in our school community.

Chickenpox is a contagious infection caused by a virus. It is spread from person to person by direct contact or through the air from an infected person's coughing or sneezing. It causes a blister-like rash, itching, tiredness, and fever lasting an average of 4 to 6 days. Most children recover without any problems. Chickenpox can be spread for 1-2 days before the rash starts and until all blisters are crusted or no new lesions appear within a 24-hour period. They must stay home until all blisters are crusted over ,as they are contagious until that time. It takes between 10-21 days after contact with an infected person for someone to develop chickenpox. Chickenpox in vaccinated persons is generally mild, with a shorter duration of illness and fewer than 50 lesions. The rash may be atypical with red bumps and few or no blisters.

If your child or anyone in your household currently has symptoms that look like chickenpox: Contact your regular health care provider to discuss your child's symptoms and how to best care for them, and to see if anyone in the home needs to be vaccinated
Contact the school nurse to report your child's chickenpox.

Anyone who has chickenpox should avoid contact with others who have not had chickenpox or who are not vaccinated against chickenpox. They should not attend school, day care, work, parties and/or other gatherings until the blisters become crusted (about 4-6 days after rash appears), or no new lesions appear within a 24-hours period. As always,they should be fever free for 24 hours. Keep all chickenpox spots and blisters and other wounds clean and watch for possible signs of infection; including increasing redness, swelling, drainage and pain at the wound site.

If you or anyone else in your household has a weakened immune system. is pregnant or has never had chickenpox or the vaccine, talk with your doctor immediately.

We are working closely with the Cape May County Department of Health to minimize spread and we greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Here is a link to the CDC's website for additional information. <https://www.cdc.gov/chickenpox/index.html>

If you have any questions ,please call the Health office at the numbers below.

Thank you ,

Mrs Bossuyt and Mrs Fox-O'Rourke

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