

Attica Public Schools

Unified School District 511



Dale Adams
Superintendent/K-6 Principal

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Josh Lanning
7-12 Principal

Dear Parents,

This letter is to notify you that there is a confirmed case of chickenpox in Attica Public School. Varicella (chickenpox) causes an acute illness with a rash that results in children missing days of school while they have a rash and parents missing work when they stay home to take care of their children. Most children now are vaccinated with at least one dose of varicella vaccine but because one dose of the vaccine is 80-85% effective for preventing chickenpox, it is not unusual to see breakthrough disease. Two doses of varicella vaccine are now required for children.

Chickenpox is a highly 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 4-6 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. It takes 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.

It is strongly recommended that your child receive their first or second dose of varicella vaccine if your child has not completed their vaccinations.

If your child or anyone in your household currently has symptoms that look like chickenpox, contact your primary healthcare provider to discuss the symptoms and see if anyone in the home needs to be vaccinated. Contact the school to report that your child has 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, or other gatherings until the blisters become crusted (about 4-6 days after rash appears), or no new lesions appear within a 24-hour period. Keep all chickenpox spots and blisters and other wounds clean and watch for possible signs of infection including redness, swelling, draining and pain at the wound site.

If anyone in your household has a weakened immune system or is pregnant and has never had chickenpox or the vaccination, talk with your doctor immediately!

If your child does develop chickenpox, he/she should be kept from attending school until the rash is crusted over.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at the school.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Jana Scripsick, RN

USD #511 School Nurse

'Home of the Bulldogs'

This is an equal opportunity program. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap, write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. The Kansas State Board of Education does not discriminate. Any questions regarding the Board's compliance with the above should be directed to 120 E. 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66612, or call (913) 296-2424.