

October 4, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This is to inform you that public health has received reports of probable cases of chickenpox at Uniacke District School. Chickenpox is caused by a virus that can spread easily, although most children and adults are protected from the disease due to vaccination or previous infection. A fact sheet can be found at <http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/chickenpox>.

Anyone who has been at the school in recent days AND who has not had chickenpox in the past AND is pregnant, has immunosuppression, or is NOT vaccinated should contact their healthcare provider. Children ages 1-12 years of age are eligible for free chickenpox vaccine in Nova Scotia. Please contact your family doctor or Public Health Services to find out if your child is eligible for free vaccine. Vaccine can be given even after someone is exposed to chickenpox, but it is not needed if the person already had chickenpox or completed vaccination in the past.

Chickenpox symptoms include aches and fevers followed by an itchy rash after 1-2 days. If your child is ill with symptoms of chickenpox, DO NOT give them ASA (Aspirin) or any products containing ASA (Aspirin) and contact the school that your child attends to alert the staff of your child's condition. Keeping children home from day care or school does NOT stop the spread of chickenpox. If children are too sick to take part in regular activities, or if they have a fever, they should stay home; however children can go to child care or school even if they still have a rash.

Please contact Public Health Nurse, Angelia Prest at 902-481-5936, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Trevor Arnason MSc, MD, CCFP, FRCPC
Regional Medical Officer of Health (Central Zone)