

Dear Parents/Guardians:

A case of chicken pox has been reported at Vernon Township High School.

Chicken pox is a contagious disease. It is contagious from about five days before the first blisters appear until seven days after the first group of blisters appears. It takes 7-21 days for signs of the illness to appear after exposure to the chicken pox virus.

Signs to look for:

1. Illness starts suddenly
2. Slight fever, cold and headache
3. Red bumps which soon become blisters
4. There are usually more bumps and blisters on covered areas of the body- back, chest, abdomen, neck
5. The blisters itch

The child may return to school when scabs are firm, and there is no temperature.

As with any rash, it is suggested that you check with your doctor if you are in doubt. Most rashes are difficult to diagnose and some do need treatment.

WARNING:

As recommended by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service: do not give aspirin to children who have chicken pox, influenza or other flu-like illness because of the possible association between aspirin and Reye's Syndrome.

If you have any further questions regarding chicken pox, consult your family doctor or your school nurse at 973 764-2945 or 2949.

Sincerely,

Timothy Dunnigan