



WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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Dr. Tracy Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear WTPS Community,

This letter is to notify you that a few cases of chickenpox (also known as *varicella*) have been reported at Wall High School. As such, we would like to share some pertinent information with you.

What is chickenpox?

Chickenpox is a contagious, viral infection. Fever and cold symptoms are often the first signs of illness, followed by an itchy, blister-like rash on the body. Chickenpox is spread from person to person by direct contact. A person with chickenpox is contagious for 1-2 days before the rash starts until all blisters have crusted or no new blisters appear within 24 hours. Once exposed to chickenpox, it takes 10-21 days for someone to develop symptoms. Complications can occur, but they are not common in healthy children who contract chickenpox. Even if your child has been previously vaccinated against chickenpox, s/he can still get this viral infection ("breakthrough chickenpox"). Persons with breakthrough chickenpox usually have milder symptoms and are sick for a shorter period of time than people who are not vaccinated (*Varicella* NJDOH). [Click here](#) to read a **Varicella FAQ** prepared by the *New Jersey Department of Health* (NJDOH). This FAQ speaks to chickenpox as well as shingles.

What should I do if I think my child has contracted chickenpox?

If your child develops chickenpox, s/he should not attend school or any other activities until the rash has scabbed over (usually 5 to 7 days). We recommend you seek assistance from your child's healthcare provider (*Varicella* NJDOH). If you receive confirmation that your child has chickenpox, please notify your child's school nurse.

[Click here](#) for a direct link to the NJDOH's educational resources for chickenpox, shingles, vaccine information, and varicella exposure management. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding chickenpox in our schools, please contact your child's school nurse.

Sincerely,

Carrie Penn
WTPS Head Nurse

Tracy Handerhan, D.Litt.
Superintendent of Schools