

If your child is NOT immunised, or if you have any concerns, please contact your family doctor for recommendations and advice.

***Dept of Health, Government of WA  
Communicable Disease Guidelines  
2010 Edition***

**CHICKENPOX**

A common, acute, viral infection. Symptoms include fever, fatigue and a generalised rash characterised by small vesicles (blisters) that rupture to form crusts.

- Transmission:** Airborne or droplet; direct or indirect contact with fluid from vesicles of infected person.
- Incubation period:** 13 to 17 days
- Infectious period:** From 2 days before the rash appears until vesicles have formed crusts.
- Exclusion:** Exclude for at least 5 days after vesicles (rash) appears and until vesicles have formed crusts. Note that crusts alone do not warrant exclusion.
- Contacts:** Refer any immunosuppressed children (e.g. leukaemia patients) to their doctor. Do not exclude other contacts.
- Treatment:** Antiviral treatment available—refer to doctor. Do not give aspirin to children with chicken pox under 12 years of age as it may cause Reye's Syndrome.
- Immunisation:** Recommended for people 18 months of age or older who have not had chickenpox. May prevent chickenpox in contacts if given within 5 days of exposure—refer to doctor.