Chicken Pox

Chicken pox is a mild and common childhood illness caused by a virus called varicella zoster. It is most common in children under the age of 10 and is contagious. The person is contagious from 1 to 2 days before the spots appear until the spots have crusted over (usually 5-7 days after the spots appear). Groups of people that are most at risk of serious problems if they catch chicken pox are newborn babies, pregnant women and those with a weakened immune system. Therefore, it is important, if your child has chicken pox, to keep them at home while they are contagious.

If we suspect a child has chicken pox, parents will be contacted and asked to collect them. All children should remain at home until all chicken pox spots have crusted over to avoid further spread of the illness. This is usually five to seven days after the appearance of the rash. Children with spots that are all crusted and dried can safely attend the daycare.

To seek further advice, or if your child develops more severe symptoms, please contact your GP. For information and guidance about chickenpox, please visit the NHS Direct link https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/