

18 September 2024

Dear Families,

It has come to my attention that a student on the Senior Campus has contracted chicken pox. This letter is to advise you to monitor your child for symptoms.

Chickenpox generally presents with a low-grade fever, general discomfort and a rash. The rash becomes blistered and progresses to crusted lesions over about 5 days. Lesions appear in three or four crops. They are most numerous on the trunk and less so on the face, scalp, limbs and mucous membranes of the mouth. Some cases (about 5 per cent) are exceedingly mild in nature.

Chickenpox transmission is mainly person-to-person by airborne respiratory droplets. It is usually communicable for 1–2 days before the onset of the rash, continuing until all the lesions are crusted

What can you do?

I seek your cooperation in monitoring your child for any symptoms. In the instance where chicken pox is detected please visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) and search for “chicken pox” for advice on finding, treating and preventing chicken pox.

If your child develops chicken pox you need to inform:

- the school and advise when the symptoms started. Penola Catholic College is aware that chicken pox can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.
- parents or carers of your child’s friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

If my child has chicken pox, when can they return to school?

Health regulations require that where a child has chicken pox they do not attend school until all blisters have dried, or at least for 5 days after eruption first appears.

More information about exclusion requirements can be found by searching for “school exclusion table” at [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

Kind regards



**Ms Erin Bonavia**

Deputy Principal  
Senior Campus