

November 5, 2009

HEALTH UPDATE: Chickenpox

Dear Parents,

I would like to inform you that we have had two cases of chickenpox in Picasso class, and one in Monet class over the last week and a half. Though your child may have been vaccinated against it, there is still a chance that they may become mildly infected.

Chickenpox is a very common childhood illness. Fever and feeling unwell are often early indicators. Its main feature is tiny blister-like spots on the skin, which are extremely itchy. The spots normally first appear on the abdomen, back, and face, and then spread to the rest of the body. They are often mistaken for insect bites.

Children are contagious 1-2 days before the rash appears until all spots are scabbed – about 5-6 days after the appearance of the rash. This makes it a difficult virus to control in the school setting. For this reason we ask that you keep your child at home for a minimum of 5 days after the onset of the rash, after all the blisters have crusted.

If your child is unwell, please keep him/her at home. If you are able to confirm that your child has chicken pox, please inform the school immediately via phone or e-mail at health@eclcseoul.com, so that we can monitor the spread.

As with most infections, our best defense is frequent and proper hand-washing.

For further information I recommend the website:
www.kidshealth.org

Thank you and kind regards,

Alison
Health and Safety Coordinator