



# Upper Missouri District Health Unit

*"Your Public Health Professionals"*

**DIVIDE COUNTY**  
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 Crosby, ND 58730  
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**MCKENZIE COUNTY**  
 Northern Plains Building  
 P.O. Box 1066  
 109 W 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Watford City, ND 58854  
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**MOUNTRAIL COUNTY**  
 Memorial Building  
 P.O. Box 925  
 18 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE  
 Stanley, ND 58784  
 Phone 701-628-2951  
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**WILLIAMS COUNTY**  
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 Williston, ND 58801-6056  
 Phone 701-774-6400  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information Contact:  
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### Chickenpox Prevention Information

Multiple cases of chickenpox (varicella) have been reported in Williams County. Although chickenpox is usually not a serious illness, it can often be more serious in adults, infants, adolescents, pregnant women, and others with a weakened immune system.

If your child develops chickenpox, he/she should not attend school, child care, or any other events until the rash has crusted over. Early symptoms are: Mild fever, runny nose and cough. The skin rash begins a bit later as red bumps on the chest, back, underarms, neck and face. Within several hours, the bumps turn into small blisters; after a few days, the blisters break and then form scabs. The chickenpox sores often occur in clusters, with bumps, blisters and scabs all present at the same time. The rash and sores itch. Symptoms appear between 10 and 21 days (usually 14 to 16 days) after exposure to the disease.

A vaccine that can prevent chickenpox (varicella vaccine) is available for people who are 12 months of age and older. All children between 12 and 18 months of age should be vaccinated with one dose of chickenpox (varicella) vaccine. A second dose should be given at 4 to 6 years of age.

The vaccine may also be effective (if given within 3 to 5 days) in preventing the disease in people who are exposed. If your child has been exposed, is unvaccinated, or has received only one dose of chickenpox vaccine, please contact your child's healthcare provider or the Upper Missouri District Health Unit 701-774-6400 or 1-877-572-3763.

Chickenpox is a mandatory reportable condition in North Dakota and must be reported to the North Dakota Department of Health by health care providers, schools, and child care providers. This can be done online <http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/> or by calling the Division of Disease Control at 701-328-2378.