







Chicken pox

Also called: varicella

A highly contagious viral infection which causes an itchy, blister-like rash on the skin.

Common

More than 1 million cases per year (India)

-  Preventable by vaccine
-  Usually self-treatable
-  Spreads easily
-  Usually self-diagnosable
-  Lab tests or imaging rarely required
-  Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Chickenpox is highly contagious to those who haven't had the disease or been vaccinated against it.

The most characteristic symptom is an itchy, blister-like rash on the skin.

Chickenpox can be prevented by a vaccine. Treatment usually involves relieving symptoms, although high-risk groups may receive antiviral medication.

Ages affected



How it spreads

- By mother to baby by pregnancy, labor, or nursing.
- By airborne respiratory droplets (coughs or sneezes).
- By skin-to-skin contact (handshakes or hugs).
- By saliva (kissing or shared drinks).
- By touching a contaminated surface (blanket or doorknob).

Symptoms

Usually self-diagnosable

The most characteristic symptom is an itchy, blister-like rash on the skin.

People may experience:**Whole body:** fatigue, fever, loss of appetite, or malaise**Skin:** blister, scab, ulcers, or red spots**Also common:** headache, itching, sore throat, or swollen lymph nodes

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure that you contact a health care provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Apollo Hospitals and others. [Learn more](#)