

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



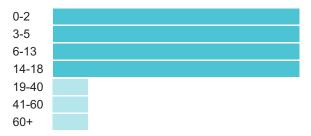
Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

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.

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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

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