



Chickenpox (Varicella)

Report cases or suspect cases **within 5 days** to local public health

Additional Information:

It is possible, although rare, for people to get chickenpox a second time. These second infections or breakthrough infections are usually milder than the primary infection. Vaccinated individuals can also get chickenpox disease although the disease is also less severe.

Identify children who are susceptible to chickenpox (varicella) by reviewing their immunization histories.

Resources

- [CDC Varicella \(Chickenpox\)](#)
- [ADHS Varicella Fact Sheet](#)

Chickenpox (Varicella) is a rash illness that is caused by the varicella-zoster virus.

The rash can appear all over the body and develops into itchy, fluid-filled blisters that usually scab over within a week. A fever or not feeling well can precede the rash by 1-2 days.

Incubation Period	10-21 days
Contagious Period	2 days before rash appears until all lesions have dried and crusted.

Recommended Actions

Isolate the individual and exclude from school or work.

Refer high-risk individuals including immunocompromised persons and pregnant women without evidence of immunity to varicella to their health care provider as soon as possible after exposure.

Cases:

Exclude cases until all lesions are dry and crusted

Contacts:

Consult local public health to determine exclusions.

Please see [Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-388](#) for specific language.

If you have questions please call public health for assistance and recommendations.

Transmission

Transmission occurs through contact with the secretions from the nose, eyes, mouth, and throat of an infected individual or by direct contact with the fluid in the blisters.

Prevention

Vaccination is the best prevention method.

Varicella vaccine is recommended at 12-15 months and at 4-6 years.

[CDC Updated Vaccine Schedule](#)

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Image by NIH