

CHICKEN POX

- IMMUNIZATION:** Recommended for children 12 months of age and older
- INCUBATION PERIOD:** Usually 13 to 17 days, but ranges from 10 to 21 days.
- SYMPTOMS:** Sudden onset of mild fever, rash on second day as superficial raised pimples which shortly become filled with clear fluid. Later, scabs form. There may be successive crops of rash, more on the trunk, up to the tenth day of disease.
- PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:** As long as 5 days but usually 1 to 2 days before onset of rash, and not more than 5 days after onset of rash OR until all lesions are crusted.
- MODE OF TRANSMISSION:** From person to person by direct contact with vesicle fluid OR by droplet or airborne spread from respiratory tract of infected person. Also direct contact with vesicle fluid of persons with herpes zoster (shingles).
- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** May return when all lesions are crusted, generally day 6 after onset of rash.
- CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UP:** Susceptible individuals should be considered infectious 10 - 21 days following exposure. Susceptible individuals having serious medical conditions or if pregnant should be referred to their private physicians for evaluation for preventive therapy (VZIG) within 96 hours to prevent or modify disease.