



CHICKENPOX

What is the Chickenpox?

Chickenpox is a disease caused by a virus. In the United States, chickenpox is most common in children between the ages of 1 and 4. By adulthood, more than 95 percent of Americans have had chickenpox.

How is Chickenpox spread?

Chickenpox may be spread through the following ways:

- Through the air for 1-2 days before the person shows any symptoms
- Once the rash has developed, chickenpox can be spread to others through the fluid in the rash and through the air
- Chickenpox can spread to others who haven't had the disease until the blisters of the rash have dried and become scabs

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- Extreme tiredness or irritability one to two days before the rash appears
- An itchy rash, which most commonly appears on the chest/back, under the armpits, on the upper arms and legs, in the diaper area, inside the mouth and throat and on the head/face
- Fever
- Feeling ill
- Decreased appetite
- Muscle and/or joint pain
- Cough and/or runny nose

How is Chickenpox diagnosed?

The rash of chickenpox is quite different from other rashes and diagnosis is usually based on an exam by your doctor.

What is the treatment for Chickenpox?

Treatment for chickenpox usually consists of making the person comfortable and reducing fever.

- Children should not be given aspirin because of its suspected link with Reye syndrome. Instead, use a non-aspirin medication like Tylenol (acetaminophen).
- Apply Calamine lotion to the skin as needed to relieve itching.
- Benadryl can be used for severe itching. It will usually cause the person to be sleepy. Consult your doctor for the correct use and dosage for children.

For more information on Chickenpox:

Ottawa County Health Department

www.miOttawa.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/chickenpox/>

Phone: (888) 246-2675