

Chickenpox (Varicella) is a common childhood infection. Following primary infection, the virus becomes latent and may reactivate later as zoster or shingles. If you have had chickenpox in the past, your body will have developed immunity to the disease. If you have had chickenpox and you get shingles while you are pregnant, your baby is not at risk from chickenpox.



Primary chickenpox is highly contagious and is spread by the airborne route & direct contact with skin lesions or oral secretions. **Airborne & Contact Precautions** are required.



HCWs known to be **immune** (previous infection with chickenpox) can care for patients with chickenpox or shingles.

Localized draining shingles (confined to one dermatome) is transmitted by direct contact with lesions.



Those who have never had chickenpox should not provide care. If they must enter the room, they need to wear an N95 mask.

Contact Precautions

Disseminated shingles (>1 dermatome affected) or in **immunosuppressed patients** require **Airborne & Contact precautions**.

