

# Be Chickenpox Aware



## What is Chickenpox?

**Chickenpox is a common, infectious disease.<sup>1</sup>**

**It is caused by a virus called varicella zoster.<sup>1</sup>**

It mostly affects children under the age of 10, but you can get it at any age.<sup>1</sup>



### Spot the signs:

One of the main signs is an itchy, spotty rash developing, turning from spots to blisters to scabs and crusts.<sup>1</sup>

Other symptoms may come before or after the spots, including a high temperature, generally feeling unwell, and a loss of appetite.<sup>1</sup>

## Possible complications from Chickenpox

Symptoms can get worse, such as problems breathing, a headache that does not go away, or if the blisters get hot and sore.<sup>1</sup>



About 1 in 10 pregnant women with chickenpox develop pneumonia, which is a serious chest infection.<sup>1</sup>

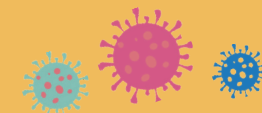
If you get chickenpox when you are over 36 weeks pregnant, there is a small risk of your baby being born with an illness.<sup>1</sup>



Visit [chickenpoxaware.ie](https://www.chickenpoxaware.ie) for more information.



Or pick up a copy of the Chickenpox Aware brochure



## Rash chart Chickenpox



Small spots appear and become extremely itchy<sup>1</sup>



Spots become blisters<sup>1</sup>



Blisters become scabs<sup>1</sup>

Red spots appear quickly and become very itchy after about 12 to 14 hours<sup>1</sup>



Affects skin, but symptoms can also include a high temperature, aches and pains and a loss of appetite<sup>1</sup>



Makes you feel unwell and you should stay at home until all spots have scabbed over<sup>1</sup>



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Brought to you by MSD

### References:

Source 1: HSE Chickenpox (Accessed October 2024)

Link: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/chickenpox/>