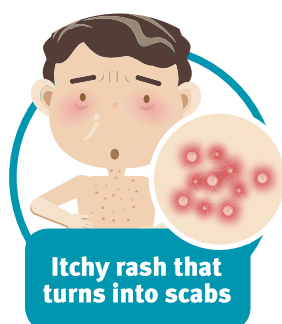
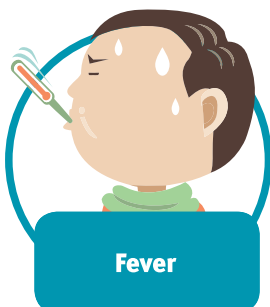


Chickenpox

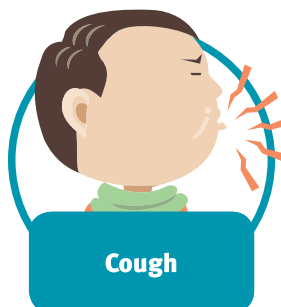
Symptoms



Itchy rash that turns into scabs



Fever



Cough



Runny nose



Headache

How it spreads

Chickenpox spreads easily between people. It can be spread if a person with chickenpox coughs or sneezes, and by touching fluid from the rash.

Who is at risk

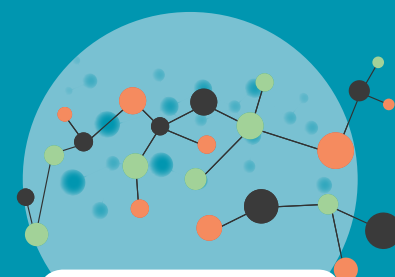
Some people can get very sick if they catch chickenpox:



Pregnant women



New born babies



People with problems with their immune system

If you are in any of these groups and you have spent time with a person with chickenpox (for example by being in the same room), you should **URGENTLY** speak with your doctor.

The doctor might give treatment to reduce chances of chickenpox infection

How to prevent chickenpox



Exclusion

People with chickenpox infection **should not** go to work, school or childcare for **five days** after the rash started and until all the rash has turned into **scabs**.

The chickenpox vaccine is **free** for 18-month-old children. Catch up vaccines are **free** for people under 20 years of age. If you are 20 years of age and over, you will have to pay for the chickenpox vaccine. Please speak with your doctor.



For further information, please contact the Metro South Public Health Unit on ph: (07) 3156 4000