

# Communicable Diseases

## Newsletter

### Varicella (Chickenpox)

July-September 2018

The CDC describes Varicella, also known as the chickenpox, as a vaccine preventable disease that is extremely contagious. The disease is caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Chickenpox causes a rash with itchy blisters, fatigue, and fever. The rash will usually start on the stomach and then move to cover the rest of the body. The disease can be very serious and life threatening in certain populations such as babies, adults, and those with a weak immune system. The CDC recommends the best way to avoid getting the chickenpox is to receive the vaccination.

Source: [CDC](#)



Chickenpox is characterized by a spotty rash and fever.  
Source: [CDC](#)

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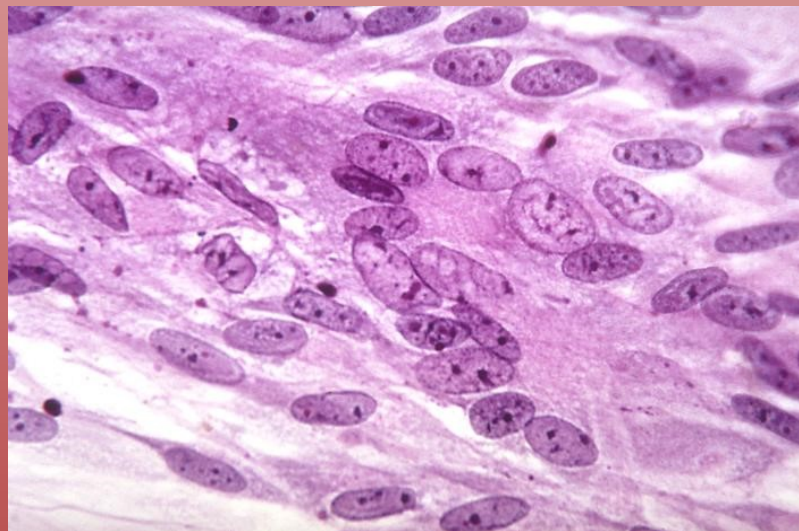
For comments or questions, please contact:  
Jillian Pollard, Community Health Planner/Educator

# Signs and Symptoms of Chickenpox

According to the CDC the most apparent symptom of the chickenpox is the itchy blisters that occur on the body. These fluid filled blisters usually start on the stomach or the back and then spread to the rest of the body including the face, eyelids, in the mouth, and genital area. After a few days the blisters will turn into scabs. Someone with the chickenpox is also likely to experience loss of appetite, feeling more tired than usual, and a fever. Children in school may miss around six days due to the chickenpox.

If you get vaccinated it is possible that you can still get the disease. With the vaccination you are more likely to have less blisters and only a mild, if any, fever.

Source: [CDC](#)



This image is a very close up view of the Varicella virus that causes chickenpox grown in a tissue culture.

Source: [CDC](#)

# Preventing Chickenpox

The CDC recommends that the best way to prevent getting the chickenpox is to get the vaccine. It requires two doses and is safe and effective for children, teenagers, and adults.

To avoid exposure to the chickenpox it is also important to practice good hygiene, like handwashing, and avoid individuals that have been exposed to the chickenpox.

Source: [CDC](#)

# Treatment of the Chickenpox

The CDC does give some recommendations for treatment of the chickenpox at home. Things that might help the symptoms include calamine lotion and colloidal oatmeal baths to help with the itching. CDC also recommends keeping fingernails trimmed so that you can avoid skin infections that can happen from the itching. You may also use acetaminophen products to help reduce any fever. It is not recommended to use aspirin products as it has been associated in children with chickenpox and Reyes syndrome. It is important to go see your doctor if you have a weak immune system, pregnant, fever lasts more than 4 days, or have other severe symptoms.

Source: [CDC](#)

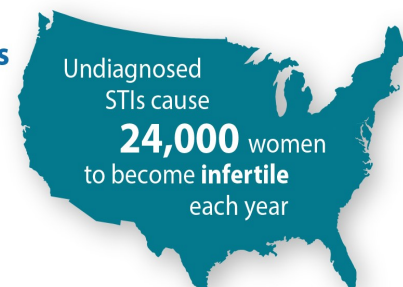
**Communicable Diseases Reported  
Joplin City/Jasper County  
2017 and 2018 (January 1-June 30)**

	Joplin City		Jasper County	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Anaplasma Phagocytophilum	1	1	3	1
Campylobacteriosis	13	13	26	23
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	5	1	2	9
E. Coli Shiga Toxin Positive	0	0	2	7
E. Coli O157 H7	0	0	4	3
Ehrlichia Chaffeensis	5	3	9	9
Giardiasis	0	3	2	2
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive	0	1	4	1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	1	0
Hepatitis A Acute	1	0	1	0
Hepatitis B	8	5	5	5
Hepatitis B (Pregnancy) Prenatal	1	1	1	1
Hepatitis B Acute	4	3	2	2
Hepatitis B Chronic Infection	7	6	4	6
Hepatitis C	3	5	1	2
Hepatitis C Chronic Infection	94	74	42	39
Influenza (Deaths)	1	7	1	6
Legionellosis	1	5	5	1
Lyme	1	0	2	1
MOTT	15	16	5	3
Mumps	6	0	9	0
Pertussis	1	0	2	1
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	5	16	13	64
Salmonellosis	8	10	15	14
Shigellosis	3	1	0	0
Staph Aureus VISA	0	1	0	0
Strep Pneumoniae Invasive	5	14	4	6
TB Disease	1	3	2	1
TB Infection	23	38	18	11
Varicella	6	1	8	8
<b>Total Cases Per Year</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>226</b>

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
Jasper County  
January-July 2018**

	2018
<b>Chlamydia</b>	377
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	171
<b>Syphilis</b>	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>561</b>

**Consequences  
of STIs are  
particularly  
severe  
for young  
women**



Source: [CDC](#)

For more information on sexually transmitted diseases testing, screening, prevention, and statistics visit the CDC website [here](#).

2018 more than 2017

2018 less than 2017

# Remembering the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic of 1918

During the spring of 1918, during World War 1, the H1N1 flu was identified in the United States Military. This flu virus quickly became a worldwide issue and was the most recent severe flu pandemic in history. The virus, of avian origin, killed around 500 million people, according to the CDC. At the time, that was one third of the world's population. Since there were no vaccines to protect against the disease, the only other preventable measures one might have taken were: good hygiene, quarantine, disinfecting, isolation, and limiting public gatherings. Source: [CDC](#)

The CDC continues to do research to learn about and help prevent future flu pandemics from happening, but they are always a threat. The CDC is always monitoring, working on risk assessment and research, and preparedness and response to reduce the risk of flu pandemics.

Source: [CDC](#)



Image of an American Red Cross ambulance in the streets of St. Louis Missouri in 1918. Source: [CDC](#)

## How You Can Receive Your Influenza Vaccine

Residents in the City of Joplin now have another option for vaccinations! Fees for these vaccinations are dependent upon insurance coverages and will be processed through a program called Vaxcare. This program allows the Joplin City Health Department to accommodate all residents, children and adults. Staff will obtain insurance information and check for eligibility. The Department has flu vaccine for all ages, 6 months and older, including that for pregnant women. Many insurances pay no co-pay. Uninsured children and adults may qualify for flu vaccinations with a \$10 co-pay. Active Medicaid children pay no co-pay. appointments are preferred, but walk-in's will be accepted if a nurse is available. To schedule call: (417) 623-6122 ext. 266, 257, or 254.

Jasper County Health Department also has flu vaccinations available through the Vaxcare program. Please call (417) 358-3111 or (877) 879-9131 to schedule an appointment.

Vaccines for 6 months-64 years of age is \$32.00/dose.

Vaccine for 65 years of age and above is \$57.00/dose—This is the High Dose Vaccine

Pneumonia Vaccine: Pneumovax 23 is \$105.00/dose

Prevnar 13 is \$194.00/dose