Chickenpox is a highly contagious febrile rash illness caused by primary infection with varicella-zoster virus (VZV).

Confirmed Case:
An acute illness with maculo-papulovesicular rash and epidemiologic link to another confirmed case or laboratory confirmation. Unvaccinated person with 200-400 lesions.

Probable Case:
An acute illness with maculo-papulovesicular rash and lack of epidemiologic link to another confirmed or probable case or lack of laboratory confirmation.

Breakthrough Case:
Vaccinated cases that are milder, less contagious, have lower fever and fewer lesions (<50). Lesions are often maculopapular instead of vesicular. Atypical appearance often leads to misdiagnosis. Consider laboratory confirmation given atypical appearance.

Contact the health department if you identify any case of chickenpox.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

PCR—PREFERRED TESTING METHOD
- Also called Probe Amplification Target or Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)
- Sensitivity and Specificity is very high

For more information about collecting specimens go to: https://www.cdc.gov/chickenpox/

REPORT TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Complete the: CDPH Case Report Forms
https://www.chicagohan.org/varicella

Fax Form To: (312) - 746-6388
Questions: (312) - 743-9000
Suspect Cases should be reported within 24hrs
Do not wait for laboratory confirmation

Sign up for electronic reporting through the Illinois National Electronic Disease & Surveillance System (I-NEDSS)
http://portalhome.dph.illinois.gov/

HERPES ZOSTER VIRUS (SHINGLES):
Characterized by vesicular lesions in one dermatome. Many labs automatically report + VZV PCRs to the health department. Talk to your lab about filtering out shingles results so they are not reported to CDPH.
Shingles is not a reportable disease.
### CDC GUIDELINES: HOW TO SAMPLE SUSPECTED VARICELLA LESIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTION</th>
<th>PROCESSING/STORAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polyester Swab Method</td>
<td>• Un-roof the top of the vesicle with sterile needle&lt;br&gt;• Use sterile swab to collect epithelial cells and vesicular fluid from the base of the lesion.&lt;br&gt;• Do not use a cotton swab</td>
<td>• Place swabs individually directly into tubes&lt;br&gt;• Dry specimens should be stored at ambient temperature&lt;br&gt;• Dry specimens should not be frozen or refrigerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass Slide Method</td>
<td>• Rake the edge of the slide over the lesion with vigor&lt;br&gt;• Use a sterile swab to collect material on the slide and to scrub the abraded lesion</td>
<td>• Insert the swab into a tube and close it&lt;br&gt;• Dry maculopapular lesion material is stable for several weeks at ambient temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collecting Crusts</td>
<td>• Lift crust off of skin</td>
<td>• Place crust into break-resistant snap cap or screw top tube</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VARICELLA TESTING TIPS

Serology (whole blood) - IgM and IgG detects viral antibodies and can only be used to classify a case as ‘probable’. Test results can be false negative. This method is not recommended.

- Specimens should be collected within 5 days of rash onset
- Get samples from 2 lesions (Swabs must be placed individually in separate tubes to avoid contamination)
- Send to commercial lab immediately

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab</th>
<th>Processing/Storage</th>
<th>Client Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACL</td>
<td>• Use Skin Swabs, Crust or Scrapings to collect from vesicular lesion&lt;br&gt;• Use eSwab Collection Kit or Universal Transport Medium (UTM) (as shown on right)&lt;br&gt;• Use the ACL Supply Form to order UTM or eSwab collection kits&lt;br&gt;• Keep refrigerated up to 72 hours&lt;br&gt;• ACL VZV Specimen Requirements</td>
<td>(800) 877-7016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARUP</td>
<td>• Use Fluid, Swab, Crust or Skin Scrapings&lt;br&gt;• Use Universal Transport Medium (UTM) (as shown on right)&lt;br&gt;• Use the Arup Supply Form to order UTM tubes&lt;br&gt;• Keep Refrigerated up to 48 hours, ambient unacceptable&lt;br&gt;• Arup Lab VZV Specimen Requirements</td>
<td>(800) 522-2787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LabCorp</td>
<td>• Use Vesicular fluid, Crust or Scrapings&lt;br&gt;• Use Universal Transport Medium (UTM) (as shown on right)&lt;br&gt;• Indicate Exact Specimen source on the requisition form&lt;br&gt;• Keep refrigerated to 14 days&lt;br&gt;• LabCorp VZV Specimen Requirements</td>
<td>(888) 522-2677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quest Diagnostics</td>
<td>• Use Swab or Crust to collect fluid and cells from vesicular lesion&lt;br&gt;• Use Viral Transport Medium (as shown on right)&lt;br&gt;• Use Quest Connect to order supplies&lt;br&gt;• Keep cold up to 72 hours&lt;br&gt;• Quest Diagnostics VZV Specimen Requirements</td>
<td>(866) 697-8378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>