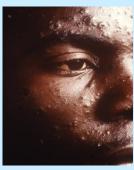
Varicella (Chickenpox) Clinical Guidelines

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.





Photos: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

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.



Photo: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Contact the health department if you identify any case of chicken pox

AND

OR

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.

Photo: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention



CDC GUIDELINES: HOW TO SAMPLE SUSPECTED VARICELLA LESIONS			
Method	GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTION	PROCESSING/STORAGE	
Polyester Swab Method	 Un-roof the top of the vesicle with sterile needle Use sterile swab to collect epithelial cells and vesicular fluid from the base of the lesion. Do not use a cotton swab 	 Place swabs individually directly into tubes Dry specimens should be stored at ambient temperature Dry specimens should not be frozen or refrigerated 	
Glass Slide Method	 Rake the edge of the slide over the lesion with vigor Use a sterile swab to collect material on the slide and to scrub the abraded lesion 	 Insert the swab into a tube and close it Dry maculopapular lesion material is stable for several weeks at ambient temperature 	
Collecting Crusts	Lift crust off of skin	Place crust into break-resistant snap cap or screw top tube	

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

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