

# CHICK-EN POX

## THE DISEASE CAUSED BY MICROBES



### CHICKEN POX OVERVIEW

CHICKENPOX IS A COMMON ILLNESS THAT MAINLY AFFECTS CHILDREN AND CAUSES AN ITCHY, SPOTTY RASH.

MOST CHILDREN WILL CATCH CHICKENPOX AT SOME POINT. IT CAN ALSO OCCUR IN ADULTS WHO DIDN'T HAVE IT WHEN THEY WERE A CHILD.

IT'S USUALLY MILD AND CLEARS UP IN A WEEK OR SO, BUT IT CAN BE DANGEROUS FOR SOME PEOPLE, SUCH AS PREGNANT WOMEN, NEWBORN BABIES AND PEOPLE WITH A WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM.

ALMOST EVERYONE BY ADULTHOOD RECEIVES CHICKEN POX

The virus spread from person to person by direct contact, or through the air.

Adults are more likely to have a more serious case of chickenpox with a higher rate of complications and death.



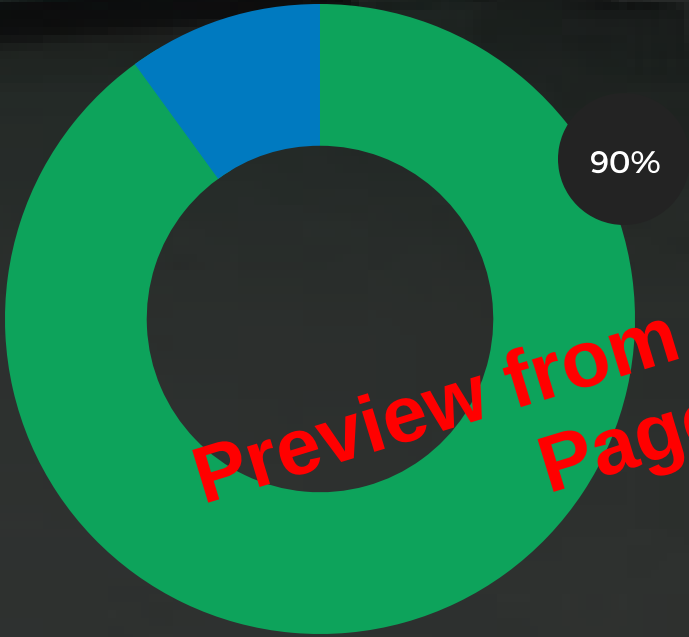
### PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CHICKENPOX PER YEAR

4 100 980

10%

Varicella vaccine is highly effective in protecting against severe chickenpox.

More than 6 million doses of varicella vaccine have been given since it was licensed in March 1995.



APPROXIMATELY 90% OF PERSONS IN A HOUSEHOLD WHO HAVE NOT HAD CHICKENPOX WILL GET IT IF EXPOSED TO AN INFECTED FAMILY MEMBER.

## SOME PROBLEMS THAT MAY OCCUR

MOST PEOPLE WITH CHICKENPOX WILL MAKE A FULL RECOVERY. BUT OCCASIONALLY SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS CAN OCCUR THESE ARE MORE COMMON IN ADULTS, PREGNANT WOMEN, NEWBORN BABIES AND PEOPLE WITH WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS. POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS INCLUDE:

- A BACTERIAL SKIN INFECTION - THIS CAN CAUSE THE SKIN TO BECOME RED, SWOLLEN AND PAINFUL
- A LUNG INFECTION (PNEUMONIA) - THIS CAN CAUSE A PERSISTENT BREATHING DIFFICULTIES AND CHEST PAIN
- PREGNANCY PROBLEMS - INCLUDING THE INFECTION SPREADING TO THE BABY

