Chickenpox is an illness with rash and fever caused by the varicella-zoster virus.

**Symptoms**
- Rash: (ie, small, red spots and bumps blistering over 3-4 days, then forming scabs.
- Fever
- Runny nose
- Cough

**Spread**
- Airborne: breathing small particles containing virus floating in the air.
- Contact with the lesions of someone with uncovered shingles lesions.

**Contagious Period**
Highly contagious. The most contagious period is while the rash is spreading. A child may be contagious 1 to 2 days before the rash appears.

**Call your Healthcare Provider**
- If anyone in your home has symptoms.
- Adults who have not had chickenpox/chickenpox vaccine and pregnant women should consult their physician.

**Prevention**
- Vaccinate all children 12 months or older, and give a booster dose of vaccine at age 4 to 6 years.
- Vaccinate older children, teens and adults who are susceptible (ie, those who have not received 2 doses of vaccine or had the natural infection)
- Exclude infected children and teachers/caregivers until rash is crusted over.
- Wash hands thoroughly and clean surfaces properly.
- Ventilate room air with fresh outdoor air: children with chickenpox are mildly ill and able to come to a program that cares for ill children require a room with separate ventilation with exhaust to and air exchange with the outside.

**Need to stay home?**
Yes, until all blisters have scabs (typically 6 days after start of rash).

**If you think your child has Chickenpox**
Tell your childcare provider or call the school.