

Disease of the
Day 13
Chickenpox

Chickenpox

- ✓ Causative agent
- ✓ Virus caused (No Kingdom)
 - Varicella-Zoster virus
 - Herpesviridae family
 - ds DNA virus

Shingles

- ✓ Shingles or herpes zoster
 - Reactivation of chickenpox
 - Rash over the area supplied by the nerves infected with the virus
 - Very painful - pain stays after rash leaves

Infection

- ✓ Enters the nose (upper respiratory tract)
- ✓ Replication
 - Initially in the respiratory tract
 - **Lymphatic system**
 - Liver, spleen, and immune cells (reticuloendothelial system)
- ✓ Blood to skin
- ✓ Neurons (ganglia)

Signs and symptoms

- ✓ 10 to 21 days incubation
 - Fever
 - Itchy bumps and blisters
 - Blisters crust over within 12 hours
 - Scabs form

Treatment

- ✓ No treatment is need for children
 - No aspirin
 - Reyes syndrome
 - Vomiting then coma
 - 1-15 years of age
 - Liver and brain damage
 - 30% mortality
 - Acyclovir
 - Famciclovir
 - Valacyclovir

Vaccine

- ✓ 1995
- ✓ Live attenuated strain of varicella virus
- ✓ Appears to be safe
- ✓ Is it needed?

