

Be a Scientist

Case Study: Chickenpox

India is two years old. She woke up this January morning with a low fever, and she feels terrible. She also has spots all over her. The spots are red and quite large and are mostly on her belly, face, chest, and back. They itch a lot. India is finding it hard not to scratch the spots. The last time her mother looked at India's belly and chest, there were more.

India likes to play with her three-year-old cousin. Last week her cousin could not play with her because he had the chickenpox. Now India's mom is sure she also has chickenpox.

India has two older brothers. India's mother is worried about them now.

Communicable Disease Information Table

2.10.1

Name: _____ Date: _____

| Name of disease | Cause (bacterial or viral) | How does it spread? | Which body systems does it affect? | What are the symptoms? | How is it treated? Is there a vaccine? | Other notes |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| Write the scientific name and the common name. People usually say that they have "the flu," which is a shorter way to say that they have "influenza." | Many diseases are caused by either a virus or a bacterium. | Some diseases are spread through blood, body fluids (like saliva), air, contaminated food, and animal bites. | Some diseases affect several systems. List the main one(s). | The symptoms are what help you to determine that you have a particular disease. | "Treat the symptoms" means doing something so the symptoms will not be as bad. Sometimes, you can treat a disease, sometimes you can only treat the symptoms. | Use this column to write anything you think is interesting or important to remember about a particular disease. |
| common cold | viral | Body fluids in the air or on surfaces—blowing your nose, touching your hands to other people or objects, sneezing or coughing. | respiratory | cough, body aches, congestion | It can't be cured. You can only relieve the symptoms to feel better, using medicine to reduce the fever and to stop the runny nose, and cough. | |



Chickenpox was once a common childhood disease. The number of cases of chickenpox in the United States has been reduced since a vaccine was introduced in 1995.