

Varicella (chickenpox) is a highly contagious infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus, which is a member of the herpes group of viruses. It is usually a mild disease that lasts a short time in healthy children. However, it can be severe in adults and may cause serious or even fatal complications in people of any age.

Chickenpox is highly contagious, and is spread through the air, by coughing, sneezing or direct contact with people who are infected. About 90% of unvaccinated people who have not previously had chickenpox will become infected when they come into contact with the virus.

Students must provide evidence of either a completed course of Varicella vaccines OR a copy of positive serology.

What is the Vaccine Schedule?

- For children under the age of 14 years: 1 dose
- Over the age of 14 years: 2 doses at least a month apart

How do I find my evidence for Vaccines?

You can provide several forms of evidence:

- A copy of your Baby/Immunisation Booklet outlining the dates of vaccines
- Letter from GP outlining dates of vaccines
- Document from the [Australian Childhood Immunisation Register](#) (ACIR) or the Vaccination Information and Vaccination Administration System (VIVAS) database.

Contact details for ACIR and VIVAS is on the [Health Placement Support Hub](#) website.

What is Serology?

Serologic tests are blood tests that look for antibodies in your blood.

Do I need to provide a copy of my Serology?

Only if you don't have evidence of a completed course of vaccines.

For more information contact the Health Placement Support Hub on:07 5552 9480 or email healthplacementsupport@griffith.edu.au

Visit the [Health Placement Support Hub](#) Website