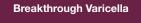
## Do You Know What Breakthrough Varicella (Chickenpox) Looks Like?

## What is breakthrough varicella?

Breakthrough varicella is an infection with wild-type varicella zoster virus that occurs in a varicella vaccinated person more than 42 days after vaccination.

Varicella in an Unvaccinated Person





- 250-500 lesions
- Mostly vesicular
- Fever
- Illness for 5-7 days
- <50 lesions</li>Few or no vesicles
- No or low fever
- Shorter duration of illness

## How is breakthrough varicella confirmed?

The best method to confirm breakthrough varicella is laboratory PCR testing of skin lesion specimens—scabs, vesicular fluid, or scrapings of maculopapular lesions. www.cdc.gov/chickenpox/lab-testing/



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

## Why is breakthrough varicella hard to diagnose?

The rash caused by breakthrough varicella looks similar to other rashes, so it is often difficult to diagnose clinically.

Breakthrough Varicella	Insect Bites
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Poison Ivy	Ringworm