



[Authoritative facts](#) about the skin from the [New Zealand Dermatological Society Incorporated](#).

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Viral skin infections

Several common childhood viral infections cause widespread [exanthems](#) (rashes):

- [Measles](#) (morbilli)
- [German measles](#) (rubella)
- [Chickenpox](#) (varicella)
- [Fifth disease](#) (erythema infectiosum, due to parvovirus)
- [Roseola](#) (erythema subitum, due to herpes virus 6)
- [Infectious mononucleosis or glandular fever](#) (Ebstein Barr virus)
- Echovirus and adenovirus infections

Other viral syndromes include:

- [Pityriasis rosea](#), at present of unknown cause (perhaps herpes 6 & 7)
- [Hand foot and mouth disease](#), due to coxsackie infection
- [Gianotti-Crosti syndrome](#) (papular acrodermatitis of childhood) is most often caused by infectious mononucleosis (Epstein Barr Virus) or hepatitis B.
- [Laterothoracic exanthem](#) (asymmetric periferflexural exanthem of childhood or APEC), cause uncertain
- Haemorrhagic fevers caused by togavirus, bunyavirus and arenavirus are potentially fatal, with bleeding into the skin
- [Smallpox](#), a deadly disease hopefully now eradicated by widespread vaccination
- [Epidermodysplasia verruciformis](#) is a genetic disorder in which there are numerous viral warts and predisposition to skin cancer
- Various skin complaints are more common with [Human Immunodeficiency Virus](#) (HIV) infections (AIDS) including [Kaposi sarcoma](#)
- [Rickettsial diseases](#) are due to organisms classified between bacteria and viruses.

Localised skin conditions caused by viral infections include:

- [Herpes simplex](#) (cold sores and [genital herpes](#))
- [Herpes zoster](#) (shingles)
- Vesicular stomatitis (oral ulcers)
- [Molluscum contagiosum](#)
- [Viral warts](#) (verrucae, [genital warts](#) or condylomas and [squamous cell papillomas](#))
- [Orf](#)
- [Milker's nodules](#)

In the future, we expect to classify more skin conditions as viral in origin as more sophisticated tests for viral particles become available.

Viral infections sometimes give rise to:

- [Erythema multiforme](#)
- [Erythema nodosum](#)

- [Kawasaki disease](#)

DermNet does not provide an on-line consultation service.

If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a [dermatologist](#) for advice.

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