

**Suspected/Known Disease or Microorganism**

**Varicella Zoster Virus: Herpes Zoster (Shingles) Localized**

**Clinical Presentation:** Vesicular lesions in a dermatomal distribution, refer to Dermatome Map (p14) in the [VZV Chickenpox \(Varicella-Zoster\) and Shingles \(Herpes Zoster\)](#) Guideline. *Localized refers to 1 dermatome or 2 adjacent dermatomes not crossing the midline.*

**Infectious Substances**

Vesicular fluid, possibly respiratory secretions

**How it is Transmitted**

Direct Contact, Indirect Contact, Airborne

**Precautions Needed\***

Acute Care

**Routine Practices**

Localized rash that **can be covered** in a normal host (not immunocompromised\*\*).

Residential  
Care

**Routine Practices**

As above, same in all health care settings

Home &  
Community

**Routine Practices**

As above, same in all health care settings

**Airborne & Contact Precautions**

- Localized rash in immunocompromised host\*\*
- Localized rash in a normal host that **cannot be covered** (e.g., on face, **Zoster Ophthalmicus**)

**Airborne & Contact Precautions**

As above, same in all health care settings

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As above, same in all health care settings

**\*Duration of Precautions:** Contact local Infection Preventionist for discontinuation of precautions.

- Until lesions are dried and crusted.
- Localized & covered rash in immunocompromised host: until 24 hours of effective antiviral therapy completed AND no new lesions. Then use [Contact Precautions](#) until lesions dried and crusted. If untreated, maintain [Airborne & Contact](#) until all lesions are dried and crusted.
- Localized zoster may disseminate in immunocompromised host if not treated. Antiviral therapy is strongly recommended.

**Incubation Period:** Not applicable

**Period of Communicability:** Until all lesions have dried

**Comments**

\*Precautions required are in addition to [Routine Practices](#).

- Susceptible healthcare workers should not enter the room if immune staff are available. If they must enter the room, an N95 respirator must be worn. Other non-immune persons should not enter except in urgent or compassionate circumstances. If immunity is unknown, assume person is non-immune.
- On discharge or transfer, keep room on [Airborne Precautions](#) for 2 hours or per air clearance/settle time.
- Notify local Infection Preventionist if other patients exposed and refer to exposure follow-up instruction in the [VZV Chickenpox \(Varicella-Zoster\) and Shingles \(Herpes Zoster\)](#) Guideline.

\*\*Classification of immunocompromised patient – refer to [VZV Chickenpox \(Varicella-Zoster\) and Shingles \(Herpes Zoster\)](#) Guideline (P4)