Chickenpox (varicella) is a highly contagious disease caused by the varicella zoster virus (VZV). Symptoms classically include fever, and an extensive itchy rash with fluid-filled blisters. Serious complications from varicella include pneumonia, encephalitis, bacterial infection of the skin and soft tissues, sepsis, and toxic shock syndrome.

Persons at risk for more severe symptoms include infants, adults, pregnant women, and immunocompromised persons.

Two doses of chickenpox vaccine are recommended for children and adults. Persons vaccinated against chickenpox can still get disease; however, symptoms are usually milder.

Note: Incidence calculated using projected population data for 2015
Data Sources: Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services, Epidemiology Division; National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS); Population data obtained through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: WONDER Bridged-Race Population Estimates 1990-2015.