



Immunization Program Update

Please distribute to each Physician, NP, PA and Vaccine Coordinator in your office

Subject: New Varicella Requirements for School and Childcare

To: Family Practice, Pediatrics, ARNP's, PA's

From: Alice Simmons, PHN Nursing Supervisor

Contact Person: Sandy Abernathy, RN, Immunization Clinic

Phone: 676-4593

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As of July 1, 2008 parental documentation of history of varicella disease will no longer be acceptable for children attending licensed childcare, preschool or kindergarten. A recent study demonstrated that only 75% of unvaccinated children aged 12 months – 4 years who reported a positive history of varicella were confirmed immune by serology.

ACIP recommends that evidence of immunity be either a diagnosis of varicella disease by a health-care provider or health-care provider verification of a history of typical varicella disease rather than parental or self-reporting. For persons reporting atypical or mild cases, health-care provider assessment should confirm an epidemiologic link to a typical varicella case or evidence of laboratory confirmation. If in doubt, vaccinate.

The varicella requirements for the 2008-2009 school year are:

Children 16 months up to kindergarten attending childcare or preschool:

- **One dose** of varicella vaccine
- Proof of health-care provider diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella disease or herpes zoster (CHILD Profile Immunization Registry generated CIS or a signed note).
- Date of blood test (titer) showing serologic proof of immunity to varicella

Children entering kindergarten:

- **Two doses** of varicella vaccine
- Proof of health-care provider diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella disease or herpes zoster (CHILD Profile Immunization Registry generated CIS or a signed note).
- Date of blood test (titer) showing serologic proof of immunity to varicella

Children entering Grades 1, 2 and 6

- **One dose** of varicella vaccine
- Parent reported **OR** health-care providers documented history of varicella disease
- Positive blood test (titer) for history of varicella disease

NOTE: Grades 3, 4, 5 and 7 -12 varicella vaccine is recommended not required.

Washington State varicella implementation plan:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/documents/varimplementplan.pdf>