

School and Daycare Guidelines for Exclusion of Unvaccinated or Undervaccinated Students

Varicella (Chickenpox)



Period of Communicability:

- Up to 5-6 days, but usually 1–2 days before onset of rash and not more than 5 days after first crop of lesions appear (count the day of rash onset as day zero).
- Children should be excluded from schools, daycare and group activities until all lesions are crusted over, which is usually 5 days.

Contact Follow Up/Prophylaxis:

- For a **confirmed** case of varicella (chickenpox) in a school, daycare or group activity setting, undervaccinated or waived individuals will be excluded for 21 days past the date of rash onset in the last case.
 - A single case or two related cases will require the exclusion of undervaccinated or waived individuals from the ill child's classroom daycare or group activity.
 - Two or more unrelated cases will require the exclusion of all waived or undervaccinated individuals from the child's school, daycare or group activity.
- Persons who are severely immunosuppressed, undergoing chemotherapy or susceptible pregnant women should consult with their own private provider to determine whether in their specific situation there is a need for exclusion or post-exposure prophylaxis of varicella with varicella zoster immune globulin (VZIG) or intravenous immune globulin (IVIG).
- Anyone receiving varicella zoster immune globulin (VZIG) or intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) must extend their exclusion to 28 days post exposure, as receipt of immune globulin indicates a person at high risk of complications if they contract the disease.
- Post-exposure prophylaxis use of vaccine up to 5 days after exposure may be effective to prevent or at least significantly modify varicella disease in a case contact.
- In general, persons who are vaccinated (for the first time or receiving a required second dose) may be re-admitted immediately to the activity setting; however, additional factors such as immune status, intense or prolonged contact, and presence of vulnerable persons at risk, will be taken into consideration before allowing a person to return, as these factors may decrease the effectiveness of prophylaxis or increase the risk of disease and complications depending on the setting to which they are returning.

If you have additional questions about exclusions or want to report a case of illness, please call the Communicable Disease Unit at 248-858-1286. For questions regarding immunizations, please call Oakland County Nurse on Call at 1-800-848-5533.



NURSE ON CALL PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION HOTLINE
800.848.5533 NOC@OAKGOV.COM
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