



Technical Bulletin

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



Date: January 30, 2018
Topic: Verification of Varicella Immunity for School and Child Care Entry
Contact: Shannon Bennett or Pamela Forest, MD – Nevada State Immunization Program
To: Immunization Providers, School Nurses, County Health Officers, Health Care Quality and Compliance, Local Health Districts and Nevada Child Care Facilities, Department of Education, School District Administrators, Boards of Trustees of School Districts, Charter School Officials, and Private School Officials

Prior to the availability of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine there were approximately four (4) million cases each year in the United States. Though usually a mild disease in healthy children, an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 developed complications, approximately 11,000 required hospitalization, and 100 children died each year from Varicella.

All children, beginning at age 12 months, as well as adults without other evidence of immunity, should be vaccinated with two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine. If a child had a Varicella diagnosis confirmed by a health care provider or laboratory evidence of prior disease, then it is not necessary to vaccinate regardless of age at infection.

A child being admitted to child care or enrolling in a public, charter, or private school in Nevada after June 30, 2018 must have age appropriate vaccination or other proof of immunity to Varicella. This requirement does not apply to children enrolled and/or admitted to school or child care before June 30, 2018. A written statement from a physician attesting to a person’s positive history of Varicella or laboratory proof of Varicella immunity is acceptable in lieu of Varicella vaccination documentation. **If a parent or guardian cannot provide confirmed history of disease, or if laboratory proof of immunity is not available, the Varicella vaccine requirement must be met.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) considers evidence of immunity to Varicella to be:

- Documentation of two (2) doses of vaccine given no earlier than age 12 months, with at least three (3) months between doses for children younger than age 13 years, or at least four (4) weeks between doses for people ages 13 years and older;
- A health care provider’s diagnosis of Varicella or verification of history of Varicella;
- History of Herpes Zoster (shingles), based on a health care provider diagnosis; or
- Laboratory evidence* of immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease.

***Note:** laboratory testing to confirm Varicella immunity can yield inconclusive results

This Technical Bulletin mirrors the history of varicella requirements already listed in Nevada’s Immunization Information System (IIS), NV WebIZ. **History of Varicella can be documented in NV WebIZ if there is: laboratory evidence of immunity or confirmation of disease, or healthcare provider verified history of or diagnosis of Varicella, or healthcare provider verified history or diagnosis of Herpes Zoster (shingles).**

For more information on all ACIP recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>

Ihsan Azzam PhD, MD
 Nevada State Chief Medical Officer

Julie Kotchevar, Ph. D.
 DPBH Administrator