

Varicella Outbreak Surveillance

Quick Guide for School Nurses

Managing an outbreak of varicella entails surveillance, case identification, outbreak confirmation and institution of preventive and control measures. *An outbreak is defined as 3 or more cases of varicella occurring within a three (3) week period.* All outbreaks, including varicella need to be reported to the local health department **immediately**.

Complete monthly survey even if you have zero reports.

____ Notify your local health department within one week of the total number of varicella cases.

____ Notify the Varicella Outbreak Team @ 800-423-1271 immediately, and your local health department when you have an outbreak.

Implement Varicella control measures:

____ Exclude or isolate cases from the school setting immediately and until all blisters are crusted over.

____ Send outbreak notification letter to parents.

____ Confirm if it is an outbreak (with the assistance of the Varicella Outbreak Team).

____ Continue to identify cases and report to Stephen Frame.

____ Continue to respond to the monthly survey by Stephen Frame, Project Coordinator.

For the Varicella Vaccine Effectiveness Project from December 2009 to December 2011 Only, the Outbreak Case Definition is “3 or more cases in a school setting within one incubation period”.