



January 24, 2020

HEALTH ALERT: Chickepox

Dear Colleagues,

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health was notified late yesterday afternoon of an outbreak of chickenpox among students attending Zeeland Early Childhood Center. Based on Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Varicella Guidance, an accelerated dose of varicella vaccine is being recommended for all children who have received one dose of varicella vaccine but not the second. A second dose should be given to all children with only one prior dose, provided that there is an appropriate time interval between doses. For persons 12 months to 12 years of age the minimum interval is 3 months. Please note that this accelerated dose counts as the child's "second dose" and will not need to be repeated in the future.

In accord with MDHHS guidance, children without a second dose of varicella vaccine will be restricted from attending school until the second dose is completed. Because of this, the Ottawa County Department of Health and Human Services requests your help in expediting appointments for these children so that they may return to school as quickly as possible.

As a reminder, medical care providers are strongly encouraged to confirm all possible cases of chickenpox with laboratory testing to assure a correct diagnosis.

If you have further questions, please contact me at 616-494-5548.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Heidel, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Ottawa County Department of Public Health