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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS  
**St. Clair County Health Department**

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SCCHD- 002

**ISSUE DATE:**

TO: St. Clair County Healthcare Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians, Clinicians

FROM: Chris Czubachowski RN, BS  
SCCHD C.D. Coordinator  
P: 810- 987-5300 F: 810-985-4340

**ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING TWO CONFIRMED VARICELLA CASES**

Please be aware that St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) has confirmed two cases of varicella (chickenpox); one at Garden's Elementary School in Marysville. Varicella has an extremely high attack rate among susceptible close contacts. It is expected that more cases will soon be identified.

Healthcare personnel should confirm suspect cases of varicella disease using recommended lab testing found on-line at **MDHHS Vaccine-Preventable Disease Investigation Guidelines for Varicella** at: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Varicella\\_388985\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Varicella_388985_7.pdf)

- Varicella is an illness with acute onset of diffuse (generalized) macular-papular-vesicular rash without apparent cause.
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests are the method of choice for rapid clinical diagnosis and confirmation. Specimens for varicella virus PCR include swabs of fluid from unroofed vesicles and/or crusts.
- Healthcare providers should contact lab courier(s) to obtain appropriate testing supplies.
- Occasionally, a vaccinated person does not obtain full immunity and thus may get the disease. Breakthrough disease often involves an atypical rash presentation (fewer lesions, vesicles absent, and milder illness than typical varicella cases).
- Children who have not begun or completed the varicella vaccine series should receive varicella vaccine as soon as possible.
- Suspect Varicella cases are required to be reported to SCCHD.

**Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect or actual cases (810) 987-5300.**