

ACTION TABLE FOR VARICELLA OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL

Daycares and Schools				
Setting	Primary Action Threshold	Primary Actions	Secondary Action Threshold	Secondary Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare Facility • Pre-School • Kindergarten • Elementary School • Middle School • High School 	<p>≥ 1 suspected case</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm case(s) as suspect varicella 2. Identify and exclude acute case(s) (primary and breakthrough) 3. Report suspect varicella cases to Public Health as soon as possible^l 4. Identify susceptibility of contacts; recommend vaccination prophylaxis for those with no evidence of immunity if within 5 days of last exposure 5. Identify susceptible students and staff who are at high risk for complications and recommend physician consult^m 6. Surveillance for more cases 	<p>≥ 3 cases within a 3 week period of time (21 days)ⁿ</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm cases as suspect varicella 2. Identify and exclude all varicella cases (primary and breakthrough) 3. Report additional cases to Public Health as soon as possible 4. Obtain specimens for lab confirmation, call Public Health to coordinate testing^o 5. With input from Public Health, notify parents and school staff 6. Identify and recommend physician consult for susceptible students and staff who are at high risk for complications 7. Recommend vaccination for all other susceptible contacts 8. Consult with Public Health about susceptible students and staff who refuse vaccination^p 9. Report additional cases to Public Health 10. Continue surveillance for varicella cases 42 days (2 incubation periods) after onset of last case's symptom

^l For more information visit: www.dph.ga.gov/varicella

^m High risk groups include: immunocompromised or immunosuppressed individuals, pregnant women, and infants younger than 12 months old

ⁿ For daycares and schools (except High School) this criteria was recently changed from ≥ 5 cases within a 3 week period to ≥ 3 cases within a 3 week period

^o Varicella-zoster virus (VZV) confirmatory testing is available at Georgia Public Health Laboratory (GPHL), coordinate testing with local Public Health

^p Exclusions of susceptible persons should be considered on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of Public Health

Residential Institutions for Adolescents and Adults				
Setting	Primary Action Threshold	Primary Actions	Secondary Action Threshold	Secondary Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prison/Jail^q • Juvenile Hall • Long-term care facility • Homeless shelters • College dormitories • Orphanage 	<p>≥ 1 suspected case</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm case(s) as suspect varicella 2. Identify and exclude or isolate acute case(s) (primary and breakthrough) 3. Report suspect varicella cases to Public Health as soon as possible* 4. Identify susceptibility of contacts; recommend vaccination prophylaxis for those with no evidence of immunity if within 5 days of last exposure 5. Identify susceptible contacts at high risk for developing severe disease or at high risk for complications and recommend physician consult[‡] 6. Surveillance for more cases 	<p>≥ 3 cases within a 3 week period of time (21 days)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm cases as suspect varicella 2. Identify and isolate all varicella cases (primary and breakthrough); airborne isolation is recommended if available 3. Report additional cases to Public Health as soon as possible 4. Obtain specimens for lab confirmation, call Public Health to coordinate testing[§] 5. With input from Public Health, notify residents and staff 6. Screen resident and staff for susceptibility; isolate susceptible staff and residents who are at high risk for complications and recommend physician consult 7. Recommend vaccination for all other susceptible residents and staff 8. Consult with Public Health about susceptible staff and residents who refuse vaccination** 9. Report additional varicella cases to Public Health 10. Continue surveillance for varicella cases 42 days (2 incubation periods) after onset of last case's symptoms

^q The Federal Bureau of Prisons has guidelines for management of varicella in these settings: <https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/varicella.pdf>