**PURPOSE:**

Because varicella/zoster virus (VZV) can cause serious, potentially devastating disease, particularly in immunocompromised children and susceptible adults, it is the policy of CHLA to protect susceptible children and staff from VZV.

**SCOPE:**

The policy is applicable to CHLA workforce members

**PROCEDURE:**

**Documentation of Status**

Employee Health will obtain written proof of previous varicella disease by a physician, or proof of immunization, or proof of protective titers, at the time of the Pre-placement Health Screening. If status is unknown, varicella immunization will be offered.

**Varicella Vaccination**

Varicella vaccination will be offered to all susceptible CHLA employees. The employee may elect to refuse vaccination and will sign a statement of declination. The employee may at any future date elect to have the vaccine.

1. The varicella vaccine is administered in two doses, at a 4 to 8-week interval. CHLA Employees, who have received 2 doses of the vaccine, will be considered immune.
2. In the event the employee develops a post-vaccination rash, the employee is furloughed with regular pay until the lesions are fully dried and crusted.

**Reporting an Exposure**

Varicella exposure is defined as direct contact with or aerosolization of lesion material, or through respiratory aerosols from an infectious person.

1. CHLA Employees must report any significant exposure either in the workplace or outside the workplace to Employee Health and their supervisor. Refer to CHLA policy IC - 303 Communicable Disease Exposure and IC - 303B Varicella for more details.
2. If there is a medical contraindication for a susceptible employee to receive the vaccine and furlough becomes necessary, they will receive regular pay. Susceptible CHLA employees will be furloughed from the 8th through the 21st day after exposure (or up to 28 days if given immune globulin).
3. Those employees who signed a declination for vaccination need to use PTO time to be paid. Employees exposed outside of the work environment are not eligible for compensation.
4. CHLA Employees who develop varicella must remain off duty until all lesions have crusted. As with other serious contagious illness, CHLA employees must clear through Employee Health with a physician’s note. See CHLA policy IC - 602 CHLA Workforce Communicable Disease Exposures for more details.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th Edition. Chin J. editor. APHA. 2000..
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. Report of the Committee of Infectious Diseases (Red Book). 2018.
3. Hospital Employee Health. Hospitals weigh costs and benefits of varicella vaccination programs. October 1997, Volume 16.
4. CHLA Policies
   * [IC – 303.0 Communicable Disease Exposure](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/v13jZTRwqgefEWHPSfXwbw==)
   * [IC – 303.2 Varicella](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/62Ug7VDhqu2ixxNRfvQPMQ==)
   * [IC – 602.0 CHLA Workforce Communicable Disease Exposures](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/gc8lXGjBmyTG3RnT-aFRlA==)
   * [HR – 062.0 Influenza Vaccination](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/yVKQHLYbmZCH21ZBSSCnXQ==)

**POLICY OWNER:**

*Director, Accreditation & Licensing, Infection Prevention, and Emergency Management*