



August 12, 2015

All School Superintendents:

Re: Reporting Chickenpox Cases to Public Health

Alberta Health Services continues to collect information on chickenpox cases to meet Public Health reporting requirements from Alberta Health. This will give a better understanding of the number of cases and disease trends in Alberta since the start of the chickenpox (varicella) immunization program in Alberta in 2001.

The reporting requirements for chickenpox cases include case-specific information (first and last names), personal health number, the number of lesions (< 50; ≥ 50), date of birth, postal code, sex and date of onset.

Parents/guardians of children with chickenpox should report this illness to Health Link who will collect and report all cases to Public Health. Health Link can also answer questions about chickenpox. Health Link can be reached at:

Alberta: 811
Toll-free: 1-866-408-5465 (LINK)

We appreciate your assistance in advising parents/guardians of children with chickenpox to call Health Link, either through your regular communication channels, such as newsletters, or individually as you become aware of cases.

If you are identifying a cluster of two or more cases of chickenpox in your facility in a short period of time, please continue to notify your local public health office/school nurse as per your usual practice.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Sikora".

Christopher Sikora, MD MPH MSc CCFP FRCP(C)
Lead Medical Officer of Health – Edmonton Zone