



Policy

TITLE: Varicella (Chicken Pox/Zoster/Shingles) Exposure and Immunization

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/10 Revised 3/22/2022

APPROVER(S): Dean of Medical Education, OCS Head of School

NUMBER: Reference # OCS 400.7

I. Purpose

It is the policy of Ochsner Health System (OHS) to require all employees, volunteers, trainees, and contract personnel to have documented proof of a positive Varicella zoster titer. The Ochsner Clinical School mandates that all students provide documented proof of a positive Varicella zoster titer. OCS students who have no serologic immunity to Varicella zoster virus are required to receive the Varicella virus vaccine if they have direct patient contact. Students who have been exposed to or become ill with Varicella zoster virus (chicken pox or shingles) may have clinical restrictions placed on them during clinical educational rotations.

II. Policy Statements

OCS student screening for Varicella immunity

1. All students will be required to document immunity to Varicella prior to beginning clinical educational rotations. A Varicella zoster titer will be drawn on all new students.
2. Students who have either no past history of having chicken pox or a negative Varicella zoster titer or equivocal titer as interpreted by the laboratory report will be required to receive the Varicella vaccine. The complete Varicella vaccine series will be administered to students with either no history of chicken pox or have a negative Varicella zoster titer. A Varicella vaccine booster will be administered if the Varicella zoster titer is equivocal. Vaccine will be administered at Ochsner expense.
3. Ochsner employee health and wellness services or other designated Ochsner staff will coordinate administration of the vaccine and documentation requirements.
4. If the student experiences a severe allergic reaction to the varicella vaccine within 7 days of receiving the vaccine, the reaction will be reported to VAERS in accordance with Policy 7710-3 Vaccine adverse event reporting.

III. Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy may result in progressive discipline up to and including termination of employment for employees or termination of contract or service for third-party personnel, students or volunteers.