

# Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Chickenpox (Varicella)

## Chickenpox (Varicella)

### 1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed cases of disease

### 2.0 Type of Surveillance

Case-by-case and aggregate reporting

### 3.0 Case Classification

#### 3.1 Confirmed Case

Laboratory confirmation of infection with clinically compatible signs and symptoms in the absence of recent immunization with varicella-containing vaccine:

- Isolation or direct antigen detection of varicella-zoster virus (VZV) from an appropriate clinical specimen (e.g., vesicle/lesion fluid or swab submitted in viral transport media)

**OR**

- Detection of VZV DNA by nucleic acid amplification test (NAT)

**OR**

- Seroconversion or a significant rise by any standard serologic assay in varicella-zoster Immunoglobulin G (IgG) titre between acute and convalescent sera

**OR**

- Positive serologic test for varicella-zoster Immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody

**OR**

- Clinically compatible signs and symptoms

### 4.0 Laboratory Evidence

#### 4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

Any of the following will constitute a confirmed case of Chickenpox:

- Positive for varicella-zoster virus (VZV) IgM antibody
- Seroconversion or rise in VZV specific IgG titre
- Positive VZV culture with immunofluorescence (IF)
- Positive NAT for VZV

#### 4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Standard VZV culture
- Commercial tests for anti-VZV IgG and IgM antibody
- NAT for VZV DNA

#### 4.3 Indications and Limitations

Care must be taken when reviewing serological data without reference to the clinical picture as the response to VZV reactivation (shingles) may be the same as to primary chickenpox

### 5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms are characterized by a pruritic rash with rapid evolution from macules to papules, vesicles, and crusts; all stages may be

simultaneously present; lesions are superficial, may appear in crops, and have a predominantly central to peripheral distribution.

## **6.0 ICD Code(s)**

### **6.1 ICD-10 Code(s)**

B01 Varicella  
B02 Zoster

### **6.2 ICD-9/ICD-9CM Code(s)**

052 Chickenpox  
053 Herpes zoster

## **7.0 Comments**

- Varicella zoster virus may be identified in other clinical specimens (e.g., respiratory specimens, sterile sites). Consult with laboratory for further direction
- The disease is endemic in Ontario, therefore, clinical illness meets the case definition for confirmed case

## **8.0 References**

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division. iPHIS manual. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2005.
- Nationally Notifiable Diseases Case Definitions with Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN) and Epidemiologic Group Draft Edits. March 2007. Based on case definitions as written in the: Health Canada. Case definitions for diseases under national surveillance. Can Commun Dis Rep. 2000; 26 Suppl 3:i-iv 1-122. Available from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/00pdf/cdr26s3e.pdf>.

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