



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

CHICKEN POX OUTBREAK AT LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ten students have chicken pox, parents urged to check if their child is immunized

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Poway Unified School District officials in their effort to notify parents of students who were possibly exposed to chicken pox. Ten students at Oak Valley Middle School have been diagnosed with chicken pox.

“It is important to make sure those children who have been exposed are properly identified and symptoms are monitored,” said Dr. Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., San Diego County Public Health Officer. “This is a powerful reminder for parents to check with their physicians to make sure their children are up to date for the chicken pox vaccine. These students started kindergarten before it was a requirement to be vaccinated for school entry so it is possible that they may be under-immunized for this disease. The CDC now recommends that persons 13 years old and older without evidence of immunity get two doses of vaccine.”

School officials notified parents of all middle school students by e-mail. Wednesday was the school's last day of classes for the year.

Symptoms of chicken pox include a skin rash of blister-like lesions, covering the body but usually more concentrated on the face, scalp, and trunk. The risk of complications increases after puberty and includes bacterial infection of skin lesions, dehydration and pneumonia. Most, but not all, infected individuals have fever, which develops just before or when the rash appears. If exposed, persons who have been vaccinated against the disease may get a milder illness, with less severe rash (sometimes involving only a few red bumps that look similar to insect bites) and mild or no fever.

For more information on chickenpox and immunizations in general, please call the HHSA Immunization Branch at 619-692-8661 or visit the website at www.sdiz.org.

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