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## NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

### Confirmed Cases of Chickenpox in Battle Mountain

*Make sure you and your children are up-to-date on your Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine*

*Carson City* – Four cases of chickenpox have been confirmed in Battle Mountain residents. There are also two additional suspect cases.

This disease is caused by infection with the varicella zoster virus. Symptoms of chickenpox, also known as varicella, are a skin rash of blister-like lesions, covering the body but usually more concentrated on the face, scalp and trunk of the body. Most, but not all, infected people have a fever, which develops just before or when the rash appears. The disease is highly contagious and is spread by coughing and sneezing and by direct contact.

“Chickenpox can cause very serious complications,” said Dr. Tracey D. Green, Nevada State Health Officer. “People can experience bacterial infection of the skin, swelling of the brain, and pneumonia. Adolescents and adults are more at risk for severe disease. I urge everyone to make sure they are up-to-date on their varicella vaccinations. It’s important that if a child has chickenpox symptoms, they remain home. Adults with symptoms should stay home from work.”

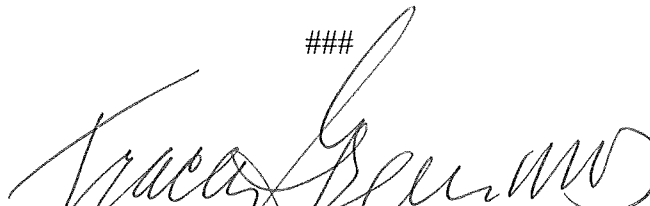
The two dose varicella vaccine is recommended for all children and adults without evidence of immunity. Evidence of immunity includes:

- Documentation of two doses of varicella vaccine.
- Blood tests that show you are immune to varicella or laboratory confirmation of prior disease.
- Born in the United States before 1980, excluding healthcare workers, pregnant women, and immunocompromised persons. These individuals need to meet one of the other criteria of evidence of immunity.
- Receipt from a healthcare provider of a) a diagnosis of chickenpox or b) verification of a history of chickenpox.
- Receipt from a healthcare provider of a) a diagnosis of shingles (herpes zoster) or b) verification of a history of shingles.

For more information about varicella vaccine or other childhood immunizations, including Tetanus, contact your healthcare provider, visit <http://health.nv.gov/Immunization.htm> or contact Brenda Keller, RN Community Health Nurse at: 775.635.2386.



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