



**Orange County**

**ATTENTION**

**STEVEN M. NEUHAUS**  
County Executive

**PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT**

**ELI N. AVILA, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM**  
Commissioner of Health

**April 23, 2015**

---

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN AND AMBULATORY CARE STAFF.**

**PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #2**

**Increase in Chickenpox Cases**

Recently, Orange County has received over 15 reports of chicken pox in children. Many of these cases are in unvaccinated children. Please review all patient records to ensure patients are vaccinated.

- Chickenpox symptoms include fever, blister-like rash with severe itching all over the body, loss of appetite, and fatigue
- Isolate symptomatic patients
- Vaccinate children routinely with the first dose of varicella between 12 and 15 months and the second dose at age 4 to 6 years
- For entry into sixth grade, a second dose of varicella vaccination is required
- Identify patients requiring varicella vaccination and recall those over 12 months of age who have not been vaccinated
- Achieving and maintaining high varicella vaccination coverage rates is important to prevent future varicella cases