



**Outbreak Notification with Arrival Notice: Possible Varicella (Chickenpox) Exposure in Refugees
Departing from Uganda**
26th February, 2016

Dear State Refugee Health Coordinator,

CDC has been notified of 20 refugee children resettling from Uganda who received varicella (chickenpox) vaccine immediately before departure on February 16, 2016. The children may have been exposed to two children who developed varicella while at the transit center in Uganda. IOM administered one dose of varicella vaccine to children between 1 and 5 years of age. Most of these children arrived in the United States on February 17-18, 2016.

We are notifying individual states about children who were immunized against varicella at departure from Uganda and who arrived in their state. Since varicella vaccine is a live virus vaccine, TST, IGRA and/or other live virus vaccines, such as MMR/MMRV should not be administered for at least 4 weeks after overseas varicella vaccination: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6002a1.htm>. If TST, IGRA and/or any live virus vaccines were administered in the United States less than 4 weeks after the overseas varicella vaccination, these tests and vaccine doses should be considered invalid and should be repeated at least 4 weeks after the overseas vaccination (<http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/scheduling-vaccines.asp>).

After a period of 4 weeks, children who received varicella vaccine overseas at departure should receive TST, IGRA and appropriate immunizations in accordance with CDC screening guidelines. All children from this caseload who were not immunized against varicella at pre-departure should continue to be screened in accordance with current CDC guidelines.

No further cases of varicella have been identified at the transit center in Uganda. IOM has implemented infection control measures and contact precautions in the transit center, as well as surveillance for symptoms of varicella for all refugees departing Uganda. Refugees with signs and/or symptoms of varicella will not be permitted to depart to the US until illness resolves. Additional information on varicella is available at www.cdc.gov/chickenpox or through your local health department.

CDC, with in-country partners, will continue to monitor the situation in Uganda and will follow up with additional information, if necessary.

Sincerely,

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