



Reporting Criteria of Chickenpox

(1) Definition:

Primary infection of varicella-zoster virus

(2) Clinical symptoms:

While observable throughout the year, chickenpox is prevalent from winter to spring. The virus spreads from person to person through droplet, droplet nuclei or direct contact. Incubation period is 2-3 weeks. Infants or school children at any ages are susceptible to the virus. As maternal immunity is not as high as in case of measles, neonatal infection may occur. Symptoms are fever and rash. Each rash matures in 3 days in the order of erythema, red papule, vesicle and crust. The stage of each rash is uneven and old and fresh rashes co-exist side by side.

Rash appears mainly in the trunk and less in the extremities. Rash may appear in the head skin and in the mucous membrane of the oral cavity. Prognosis is good in healthy children, but poor in immune deficient children often resulting in fatal consequence.

(3) Criteria of notification

a): "Patients (confirmed cases)

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, the administrator of a designated sentinel medical institution should notify the case on weekly basis on Monday of the next week of the diagnosis, when a physician in the institution has examined a patient with clinical characteristics as described in (2), suspected chickenpox, and diagnosed based on the clinical criteria as described in (4).

b): "Dead body of the infected"

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, the administrator of a designated sentinel medical institution should notify the case on weekly basis on Monday of the next week of the diagnosis when a physician in the institution has examined a dead body of a patient with clinical characteristics as described in (2), suspected chickenpox, and diagnosed that the death was caused by the chickenpox infection based on the clinical criteria as described in (4).

(4) Clinical symptoms required for the notification

Notification requires both:

- Sudden generalized development of serous papules and vesicles
- Co-existence of rashes in different stages (papules, vesicles and crusts)