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**This is a message from the LA County Department of Public Health.**

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The U.S. FDA has now approved Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin, VARIZIG™ for use in the U.S. as a commercially available product. VARIZIG™ is produced by Cangene Corporation, a Canadian manufacturer, and formerly could only be used in the U.S. under investigational new drug (IND) procedures. However, with FDA's recent licensure of this product, IND procedures are no longer required. This product is locally available through FFF Enterprises (24-hour telephone number, 1-800-843-7477).

VARIZIG™ is effective in preventing or modifying varicella disease if given within 10 days of first exposure of a non-immune contact to someone with communicable varicella. Candidates for VARIZIG™ include (but are not limited to) the following persons exposed to someone with communicable varicella:

- Immunocompromised, susceptible children
- Susceptible pregnant women
- Newborn infant of a mother who had onset of chickenpox within 5 days before delivery to 48 hours after delivery
- Hospitalized premature infant, born at or greater than 28 weeks gestation, exposed during the neonatal period and whose mother has no history of chickenpox, serologic evidence of immunity, or vaccination
- Hospitalized premature infant, born at < 28 weeks gestation or less than or equal to 1,000 g, exposed during the neonatal period, regardless of maternal history of chickenpox, serologic evidence of immunity, or vaccination.

For technical assistance or additional information about varicella, please call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Immunization Program's Surveillance Unit at (213) 351-7800.

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