

Chickenpox Vaccine

What You Need to Know

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis
Hojas de L Q I R U P D F a y G as están disponibles en Hspañol y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1 Why get vaccinated?

Chickenpox (also called varicella) is a common childhood disease. It is usually mild, but it can be serious, especially in young infants and adults.

‡It causes a rash, itching, fever, and tiredness.

‡It can lead to severe skin infection, scars, pneumonia, brain damage, or death.

‡The chickenpox virus can be spread from person to person. It causes chickenpox blisters.

‡A person who has had chickenpox can get a painful rash called shingles years later.

‡Before the vaccine, about 11,000 people were hospitalized for chickenpox each year in the United States.

‡Before the vaccine, about 100 people died each year as a result of chickenpox in the United States.

Chickenpox vaccine can prevent chickenpox.

Most people who get chickenpox vaccine will not get chickenpox. But if someone who has been vaccinated does get chickenpox, it is usually very mild. They will have fewer blisters, are less likely to have a fever, and will recover faster.

2 Who should get chickenpox vaccine and when?

Routine

Children who have never had chickenpox should get 2 doses of chickenpox vaccine at these ages:

- 1st Dose: 12–15 months of age
- 2nd Dose: 4–6 years of age (may be given earlier, if at least 3 months after the 1st dose)

People 13 years of age and older (who have never had chickenpox or received chickenpox vaccine) should get two doses at least 28 days apart.

3 Some people should not get chickenpox vaccine or should wait.

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