



**PROTECT YOUR
CHILD FROM**

chickenpox



Chickenpox (varicella) can be serious for children and adults.

Each year, chickenpox vaccine prevents more than 4 million cases of chickenpox, 10,000 hospitalizations, and 150 deaths a year in the United States.

About the disease

Chickenpox usually causes fever and a head-to-toe rash of very itchy blisters that may become infected and cause scarring. It may also lead to pneumonia, brain swelling, skin and blood infections, and death.

Chickenpox spreads very easily and can be passed on to others one to two days before the rash appears. It spreads through coughing, sneezing, or coming into direct contact with the blisters.



When to get the vaccine

Varicella vaccine is a 2-dose series. The first dose is recommended between 12 to 15 months old and the second dose between 4 and 6 years old.

Why should your child get the vaccine?

Chickenpox is usually a mild disease, but for some people, including babies too young to be vaccinated, healthy children and adults, it can be more serious. People who have the disease can spread it to others who may be at high risk for severe illness. In addition, those who have had chickenpox can get shingles later in life.

Call your doctor, nurse, or clinic today to get the chickenpox vaccine.

Is the vaccine required for child care and school?

Yes. In order for your child to enter child care or school, you must show proof of chickenpox vaccination OR a doctor's signed statement that your child has had the disease.



After the shot

Common side effects of the vaccine are mild and usually include pain and redness where the shot was given and sometimes a low-grade fever. To reduce discomfort from fever, give your child plenty of fluids and dress them lightly.

Can children who get the vaccine still get chickenpox?

Some vaccinated children may still get chickenpox since no vaccine is 100 percent effective. In the few times that vaccinated children become infected, they tend to have fewer blisters, are less likely to have a fever, and recover more quickly. The vaccine prevents almost all cases of severe illness.

Find out more

Visit the Department of Health:
www.doh.wa.gov/immunization

Find an immunization clinic by calling or visiting:

WithinReach™

Call the WithinReach Help Me Grow Washington
Hotline at **1-800-322-2588** (711 TTY relay)
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