

Chickenpox Vaccine (Varicella)



« Vaccination is good protection »

This vaccine protects against chickenpox and its complications. Chickenpox is a very contagious disease caused by a virus. This virus stays in the body, where it can reactivate years later and cause shingles.

	Chickenpox causes:	Possible complications:
DISEASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Many small blisters that develop scabs • Itching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear infection • Pneumonia • Skin infection (e.g. impetigo), sometimes severe (e.g. flesh-eating disease) • Encephalitis (brain infection) • Malformations in an infant whose mother contracted chicken pox during pregnancy • Shingles (15-30% over lifetime) • Death

VACCINE

Vaccination is the best way to protect against chickenpox and its complications. The vaccine is recommended for everyone aged 1 year or over who is not protected against chickenpox. People vaccinated against chickenpox are probably less likely to develop shingles.

The chickenpox vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long. Symptoms experienced after vaccination are not necessarily caused by the vaccine.

Women who are vaccinated should wait for one month after vaccination before attempting to become pregnant

	Possible reactions to the vaccine:	What to do:
REACTIONS	• Pain (10-49%) and redness (1-9%) at the injection site	• Apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site
	• A rash resembling chickenpox (fewer than 10 pimples), at the injection site or on other parts of the body (1-9%); this is not very contagious and soon heals.	• Cover the lesions. If this is impossible, avoid contact with premature newborns and individuals with weakened immune systems for as long as the lesions are present.
	• Fever (10-49%) • Irritability, fatigue, headache, diarrhea, sleep problems and loss of appetite (10-49%)	• Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperature of 38.5°C or higher • See a doctor if symptoms are severe

As with any drug or biological product, an allergic reaction may occur. If a severe allergic reaction occurs, it begins within minutes and the person administering the vaccine will be able to treat it. That is why you are advised to remain at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is administered.

If you have any questions, ask the person administering the vaccine or contact Info-Santé (8-1-1) or your doctor.

