



**PROTECT YOUR
CHILD FROM**

chickenpox



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

Before we had a vaccine, 11,000 people were hospitalized and about 100 people died from chickenpox every 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 easily and can be passed on to others one to two days before the rash appears. It spreads by coughing, sneezing, or coming into direct contact with the blisters.

When to get the vaccine

Before starting kindergarten, children should get two doses of varicella vaccine. The first dose is recommended between 12 and 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 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.



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 attend child care and preschool or to start kindergarten and high school, you must show proof of chickenpox vaccination OR a doctor's signed statement that your child has had the disease.



Children with chickenpox must stay home from school or child care until all blisters are crusted over, which may take more than a week. This often means parents miss work, too.

After the shot

The most 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.

Can children who get the vaccine still get chickenpox?

Some vaccinated children may still get chickenpox since no vaccine is 100 percent effective. Vaccinated children who become infected tend to have fewer blisters, are less likely to have a fever, and recover more quickly.

Find out more

Visit the Department of Health:

www.doh.wa.gov/immunization

Find an immunization clinic by calling or visiting:

	WithinReach Family Health Hotline 1-800-322-2588 (711 TTY relay) or www.ParentHelp123.org
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