

Chickenpox vaccination information sheet

How does chickenpox vaccination work?

Chickenpox vaccination may help protect against the varicella zoster (VZ) virus that causes chickenpox. It is a live vaccine that contains a weakened version of the VZ virus.¹

Who can be vaccinated against chickenpox?

The vaccine may not be suitable for people with certain medical conditions. For information on whether chickenpox vaccination may be suitable for your child, please speak to your healthcare professional.

How is the vaccination given?

Chickenpox vaccination usually involves two injections given on separate occasions. The schedule will be confirmed by your healthcare professional.

How can I decide whether to vaccinate my child against chickenpox?

Before deciding to vaccinate your child against chickenpox, it's important to do your research in order to make an informed decision. Some of the pros and cons of chickenpox vaccination are listed below. Speak to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse or visit www.chickenpoxaware.co.uk for further information.

Some information to consider

Chickenpox vaccination is effective.

Studies show that 9 out of 10 children vaccinated with one dose will become immune to the virus. Having the recommended two doses gives an even better immune response.¹

Chickenpox vaccination has been well-studied.

It has been available in the UK for over 15 years.

Vaccination may prevent chickenpox. Vaccination carries a risk too which could lead to a disruption to daily life.

Chickenpox vaccination comes with a risk of side effects.

The most common side effects are soreness and redness around the injection site, a mild rash and a high temperature. There is also a very small risk (1 in 1 million people vaccinated) of serious side effects, such as a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).²

It is not known how long vaccinated individuals are protected against chickenpox.

However, live vaccines generally provide long-lasting immunity.³

References

1. NHS. Chickenpox vaccine overview. 2019. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/chickenpox-vaccine/>
2. NHS. Chickenpox vaccine side effects. 2019. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/chickenpox-vaccine-side-effects/>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Varicella vaccine effectiveness and duration of protection. 2012. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/varicella/hcp-effective-duration.htm>