

percent of the time. Also, a very mild rash or several small bumps can result in about 1 to 4 percent of those receiving the vaccine. There may be a mild fever two weeks after receiving the vaccination. As with any vaccine, there is a very small chance that serious problems can occur. However, after distribution of the first 10 million doses of the vaccine, reports of serious adverse events have been very rare, 1 for every 50,000 doses given. **If you, or your child experiences an adverse reaction, call your doctor or seek immediate emergency medical services.**

If my child came into close contact with someone with chickenpox, would receiving the vaccine prevent the onset of disease? Yes. Chickenpox (varicella) vaccination may prevent or modify chickenpox if administered up to 3 days, and possibly 5 days, after a close exposure.

How many shots are needed? Children 12 months through 12 years old need only one shot. People 13 years and older, need two shots given four to eight weeks apart.

We're here to help--For more information, please contact your doctor, local health department, or: Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Community Health, Immunization Program at (775) 684-5900

Reviewed and approved by the Nevada Immunization Advisory Committee (NIAC)

Kenny C. Guinn
Governor

Michael J. Willden
Director, DHR

Yvonne Sylva
Administrator



Chickenpox (Varicella)

New Nevada Requirements

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION
Office of Public Information



Please visit our Website:
Health2k.state.nv.us
(775) 684-4200



Why is July 1, 2003 important?

School entry requirements have changed! Effective July 1, 2003, the Nevada State Board of Health adopted changes to Nevada Administrative Code 392.105 and 304.190, requiring children enrolling into public and private schools in Nevada to be vaccinated against **Chickenpox (Varicella)**. New students enrolling into a public or private school for the first time in Nevada will be required to be vaccinated against the following diseases: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chickenpox), Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella.

Are there exemptions? If your child cannot receive one or more vaccines for medical reasons, your physician will give you a note to submit to the school. In the event of an outbreak, if your child is exempt, he/she may have to be excluded from school or childcare until the outbreak is over. If your child has had chickenpox disease, he/she does not need to be vaccinated. ***We strongly encourage you to protect your child and to get all the recommended immunizations.***

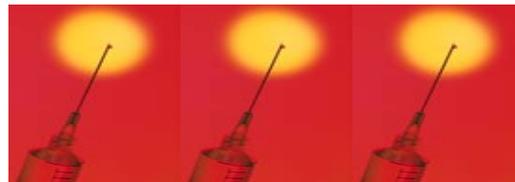
What is chickenpox (varicella)? Chickenpox is an infectious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus, which results in a blister-like rash, itching, tiredness, and fever. The rash appears first on the trunk and face, but can spread over the entire body causing between 250 to 500 itchy blisters. Most cases of chickenpox occur in persons less than 15 years old. Prior to the use of the varicella vaccine, the disease had annual cycles, peaking in the spring of each year.

How do you get chickenpox? Chickenpox is highly infectious and spreads from person to person by direct contact or through the air from an infected person's coughing or sneezing. A person with chickenpox is contagious 1-2 days before the rash appears and until all blisters have formed scabs. It usually takes from 10-21 days after contact with an infected person for someone to develop chickenpox.

Can chickenpox be prevented? Yes. There is now a vaccine to prevent chickenpox.

Who should get the chickenpox vaccine? Young children are not the only ones who need the chickenpox vaccine. If teens or adults get chickenpox, they have a greater risk of serious complications.

What are the symptoms of chickenpox? High fever, severe itching, an uncomfortable rash, dehydration, or headache. In children, chickenpox most commonly causes an illness that lasts about 5-10 days. Children usually miss 5 or 6 days of school or childcare due to chickenpox. About half of all children with chickenpox visit a health care provider due to symptoms described above. In addition, about 1 child in 10 has a complication from chickenpox serious enough to visit a health care provider including infected skin lesions that may cause scarring, bleeding problems, dehydration from vomiting or diarrhea, exacerbation of asthma or more serious complications such as pneumonia or infection of the brain (encephalitis). Certain groups of persons are more likely to have more serious illness with complications. These include adults, infants, adolescents, and people with weak immune systems from either illnesses or from



medications such as long-term steroids. However, even a healthy person with chickenpox can die from the disease. Before a vaccine was available, there were approximately 11,000 hospitalizations and 100 deaths from chickenpox in the United States each year.

Can you get chickenpox more than once? Yes. However, it is uncommon. For most people, one infection is thought to confer lifelong immunity.

Is the vaccine effective in preventing chickenpox all of the time? No vaccine is 100% effective in preventing disease. For chickenpox, 8 to 9 out of every 10 people who are vaccinated are completely protected from chickenpox. The vaccine almost always prevents severe disease.

Is there any preventive treatment available? Yes, varicella zoster immune globulin (VZIG), can prevent or modify disease after exposure. However, because it is costly and only provides temporary protection, VZIG is only recommended for persons at high risk of developing severe disease who are not eligible to receive the chickenpox vaccine. VZIG should be administered as soon as possible, but no later than 96 hours after exposure. Varicella vaccine is recommended for use in a susceptible person after exposure to varicella and should be administered within 72 hours of exposure.

Is there anyone who should not receive the vaccine? Yes. Individuals who have had a serious allergic reaction to chickenpox vaccine, neomycin, or gelatin, ***should not*** receive the vaccine. Also, anyone who is pregnant, has a moderate or serious illness or an immune disorder, should not be vaccinated. If in doubt, always consult your health care provider.

Can serious reactions occur after chickenpox vaccination? Soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given are the most common side effects, occurring about 20 (Over)