

## Can children in other age groups receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination for free?

There is no significant benefit to providing a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose to all Québec children, even if they were in contact with someone who had chicken pox. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the chicken pox vaccine is only recommended for children age 4 to 6.

However, if you would like your child to receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine, you can speak to your local CLSC or doctor.

## Are side effects more frequent after the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination?

In general, side effects after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose are not more frequent than after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose.

### For more information

Get more information from your CLSC or your doctor during your next visit.

For more general information on chicken pox and vaccination, please visit [sante.gouv.qc.ca/vaccination](http://sante.gouv.qc.ca/vaccination).

# Chicken pox vaccination



**2<sup>nd</sup> dose added  
for children age 4 to 6**

**Starting April 1, 2016,  
a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the chicken pox  
vaccine will be added to the free  
vaccination schedule for children  
age 4 to 6.**

## **Why vaccinate children against chicken pox?**

Chicken pox is a highly contagious disease. It can lead to the following potentially serious complications:

- Ear infection
- Pneumonia
- Infection of the chicken pox blisters (e.g., impetigo)
- Serious infection (e.g., flesh-eating bacteria)
- Encephalitis (brain infection)
- Malformations in an infant whose mother contracted chicken pox during pregnancy
- Shingles
- Death

Before the program to vaccinate infants against chicken pox was implemented, hundreds of children were hospitalized each year in Québec. Since the start of the program, that number has been reduced by nearly 90%.

## **Why add a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine?**

The 1<sup>st</sup> dose is normally administered at 18 months of age. It is included in a combined vaccine that protects against 4 diseases — measles, rubella, mumps, and chicken pox. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is a vaccine that protects solely against chicken pox.

Québec vaccination experts recently recommended that a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the chicken pox vaccine be added to offer better protection for children, control the disease, and reduce the number of cases.

However, the vaccine is not 100% effective and adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose does not completely eliminate the risk that a child will contract chicken pox.

## **When is the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose provided?**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the chicken pox vaccine is administered to children before they start school, between age 4 and 6. At this age, children also normally receive a Tdap-IPV booster shot, which protects against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and polio. There is no added risk in receiving multiple vaccines in one session.