



CHICKEN POX (VARICELLA) VACCINE

Information for parents/guardians

What is Chicken Pox disease?

Chicken Pox is a highly contagious infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus. It is transmitted by airborne droplets but also through direct contact with blisters.

Serious complications include pneumonia, meningitis and infected blisters. It may also lead to shingles later in life.

Vaccine Recommendations

One dose is given free at 18 months. One dose covers 65-85% of illness.

It is recommended to have 2 doses as this covers 98%.

The additional dose has to be paid for by the client and can be given from 12 months of age to ensure earlier protection.

Timing of Vaccines

The additional (paid) dose can be given with the 12 month vaccines or 4 weeks later OR it can be given with at least a 4 week gap before or after the 18 month vaccines.

Older children who have only received one dose will benefit from obtaining a second dose of the vaccine.

Vaccine Side Effects

Chicken Pox is a live vaccine. Side effects occur 5-10 days past vaccination:

- Fever, localized pain and swelling
- Chicken Pox like blisters around injection site in 5% of children

Further information

For further information about the Chicken Pox vaccine refer to the Better Health Channel website: betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/chickenpox-immunisation.

Bookings and Payment

Book and pay online by scanning the QR code via the Whitehorse City Council website at: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/immunisation

