



# Varicella (Chickenpox) Varivax®III. Varilrix®

The varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox disease.

## **Who should get this vaccine?** <sup>1,3</sup>

- Routinely given to all children at 15 months of age.
- A booster dose of this vaccine is given to all children at 4 to 6 years of age as MMRV vaccine, which also protects against measles, mumps and rubella.
- All children born on or after Jan 1, 2000 are eligible for two doses of this vaccine free (publicly funded).
- This vaccine may be recommended for others based on risk factors, however they would have to purchase this vaccine.

## **How well does this vaccine work?** <sup>1,3</sup>

- 99.4% of those fully vaccinated are protected against varicella.
- 97% of those fully vaccinated are still protected against varicella 5 years post vaccination.

## **Is there an alternative to this vaccine?**

At this time there are no other ways to prevent this disease. Hand washing and covering the mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing can help reduce the spread of disease.

## **Is this vaccine safe?**

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of varicella.

If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

## **Common side effects of this vaccine** <sup>1,3</sup>

- Pain, swelling and redness where needle was given.
- Low grade fever.

## **Less common:**

- Varicella like rash where needle was given usually within 5-26 days after the needle was given.

## **Who should not receive this vaccine?** <sup>1,3</sup>

- Anyone with an allergy to any of the vaccine components or who has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine.
- Anyone with an immune system that isn't working properly.
- Anyone with blood disorders or cancers affecting the bone marrow, blood or lymphatic system.
- Anyone who is pregnant. Women should delay pregnancy for one month after receiving a live vaccine.
- Anyone with active, untreated tuberculosis (TB).
- Anyone who has had another live vaccine in the last 4 weeks.

## What is in this vaccine? <sup>2</sup>

Varivax®III	Varilrix®	Also found in...
Neomycin	Neomycin	Antibiotics
	Amino acids	Red meat, quinoa
	Human albumin	Drug manufacturing
	Lactose	Milk, yogurt
	Polyalcohols	Artificial sweeteners
Porcine gelatin		Lunch meats, frozen desserts
Fetal bovine serum		Antibiotics/Anti-inflammatories
Monosodium L-glutamate		Tomatoes, parmesan cheese
Potassium chloride		Chocolate milk, Yogurt
Potassium phosphate monobasic		Food additive
Sodium chloride		Table salt
Sodium phosphate dibasic		Laxatives, food additive-emulsifier, leavening agent for baked goods
Sucrose		Table Sugar
Urea		Human body

### We ask you to:

- Check
  - Your child's yellow immunization card or health record.
- Contact
  - Your child's family physician or health-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations
- Share
  - Visit our website to share your immunization record with us.



### References:

1. Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2017.
2. Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information 2013. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2017.
3. Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.