



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Extended Shingrix® Eligibility & GSK Packaging Updates

Updated Shingles Eligibility

Shingles vaccine protects against shingles, an infection caused by the chickenpox virus. This infection happens only in people who have been exposed to or had chickenpox in the past. The vaccine reduces the risk of getting the virus by more than 50%.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals born from **1949 to 1953** who missed the opportunity to receive the publicly funded shingles vaccine are still eligible to receive **Shingrix®** through their healthcare provider. Eligible individuals should complete a 2-dose series by the end of **December 31, 2024**. Shingrix remains **free** for individuals between the ages of **65 and 70**. Individuals who are not eligible for the publicly funded shingles vaccine can purchase the vaccine privately with a prescription from their healthcare provider.

The Shingrix vaccine is routinely given as a **2-dose series, 2 to 6 months apart**.

See [Ontario's Shingles Fact Sheet \(www.ontario.ca/page/get-free-shingles-vaccine\)](http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-free-shingles-vaccine) for more information.

New MMR, MMRV, VAR Packaging

The packaging of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) MMR, MMRV, & Var products, specifically Priorix®, Priorix Tetra® & Varilrix® will be changing to 10 single doses of vaccine in a vial and 10 single doses of diluent in a **prefilled syringe**. Size is L 3.05 cm x W 17.78 cm x H 13.97 cm. This change will likely occur mid-February and you may receive both package formats in your vaccine order throughout this transition.

Please ensure designated vaccine fridge has sufficient storage space when placing your order.

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If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.





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