

# Two Doses of Chickenpox Vaccine Required for Kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade in Fall 2009

For providers and parents

What is the new chickenpox requirement?

Beginning in September 2009 parents of children entering kindergarten or 7<sup>th</sup> grade will need to:

- Show proof their child has either received two chickenpox (varicella) shots or has had the disease, **OR**
- Show proof of a medical exemption signed by the child's healthcare provider, **OR**
- File a notarized waiver with their school if they are conscientiously opposed to chickenpox vaccine.

Note: The CDC recommends that if your child previously got one dose, they should get a second dose next time they go to the doctor.

Six good reasons to vaccinate your child against chickenpox

1. The chickenpox virus spreads easily from person to person, through the air or by contact with fluid from chickenpox blisters.
2. One child in 10 has serious complications from chickenpox. It can lead to severe skin infection, scars, pneumonia, brain damage, or death. Children who are being treated with steroids for asthma or other illnesses are more susceptible to severe complications and death due to chickenpox.

3. Before chickenpox vaccine was available, every year in the U.S. over 8,000 children were hospitalized and about one child died every week from chickenpox or its complications.
4. Complications of chickenpox increase as a person gets older.
5. Chickenpox generally causes a rash (300-500 blisters), itching, fever, and tiredness. It can also cause pneumonia, brain damage, or death.
6. If a child gets chickenpox, he or she is usually out of school for a week or more.

Not sure your child has had all the other shots required for school?

Talk to your health care provider or visit the Minnesota Department of Health's Immunization Program Web site at [www.health.state.mn.us/immunize](http://www.health.state.mn.us/immunize).

For more information

For more information about Minnesota's School Immunization Law, call the Minnesota Department of Health Immunization Program or visit [www.health.state.mn.us/immunize](http://www.health.state.mn.us/immunize) (click on Immunization Laws in the left-hand column).



Immunization Program  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970  
[www.health.state.mn.us/immunize](http://www.health.state.mn.us/immunize)