

Chickenpox vaccinations

Chickenpox is an eruptive disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus. It is spread through airborne transmission, droplet transmission (droplets expelled by sneezing, coughing or exhaling), and through direct contact.

The sufferer first develops a fever, and then rashes develop- starting as red eruptions on the skin, and then turning to blisters and pustules before scabbing over and healing. In rare cases, the illness can become serious.

Chickenpox vaccinations will be administered routinely beginning the 1st October 2014.

●Persons eligible for routine vaccinations

1) Children from 1 day before their 1st birthday to children 1 day before their 3rd birthday (2 vaccinations)

2) Children from their 3rd birthday to children 1 day before their 5th birthday (1 vaccination)

※Those who have already caught chickenpox are not eligible.

※Those who have already optionally been vaccinated for chickenpox will have their number of previous optional vaccinations taken into account.

※As a transitional measure, those who fall under category number 2) will only be eligible for routine vaccination from 1st October 2014 until 31st March 2015.

●Vaccination schedule

The first vaccination takes place between 12 and 15 months after the infant is born. The second vaccination is administered between 6 to 12 months after the first.

※It is possible to administer the second vaccination from 3 months after the first, however where possible please follow the standard vaccination schedule.

●Vaccination fees

Vaccinations are free, as the costs (8856 yen per vaccination) for those in the eligible age ranges are fully subsidised.

※Vaccinations carried out before 31st September 2014 are considered voluntary and therefore the costs are not covered by the government.

※Vaccinations carried out on those outside the eligible age ranges are considered voluntary and therefore the costs are not covered by the government.

※Vaccination vouchers can be found in medical institutions.