

## PROTECTION FROM CHICKENPOX (VARICELLA)

### What is Chickenpox?

Chickenpox is an illness that often affects children causing an itchy rash or blisters. People have the rash for several days most get better without treatment. Some people get sick with more serious chickenpox and can be hospitalized.

Chickenpox vaccine has been used for many years in other countries and since 1998 in Canada.

### Who should get chickenpox vaccine?

In Newfoundland and Labrador chickenpox vaccine is publicly funded for all children aged 12 months. This needle is given in the arm at the same visit as the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine).

### Are there side effects from chickenpox vaccine?

Many people have a sore arm (redness, tender, swollen) for a day or two. Some people have a fever or rash (sometimes it looks like chickenpox) a week or two after the vaccine.

### Who should not get the vaccine?

- Let the Community/Public Health nurse or your doctor know if:
- Your child is sick with another illness
- Your child has any allergies
- Your child has received any other vaccines in the past month

For additional information and services  
contact your Regional Health Authority  
listed in the white pages of your telephone  
book.