

## FREE SHINGLES VACCINATION PROGRAM: APPOINTMENT BOOKING NOW AVAILABLE ON CLIC SANTÉ

**Baie-Comeau, April 28, 2023** – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) announces that the shingles vaccine is now offered free of charge to people aged 80 years and older as well as people aged 18 and older who are immunocompromised.

People eligible for free vaccination can make an appointment now at [ClicSanté.ca](https://www.clicsante.ca) or by calling 1 877 644-4545. The number of appointments available on Clic Santé will be adjusted monthly based on the reception of doses in the region. The vaccine will also be offered to eligible people in residential and long-term care centres (CHSLD).

Shingles is a disease caused by reactivation of the chickenpox virus. Up to one in three people will have a shingles episode in their lifetime. The aim of this provincial vaccination campaign is to reduce the number of shingles cases and the complications associated with this disease. Each year, shingles leads to 600 hospitalizations and 10 deaths in Quebec, of which 80% are people aged 80 years and older.

People aged 50 years and older can also receive the shingles vaccine to reduce their risk of contracting this disease. However, these people must pay for the vaccine. They can contact their community's CLSC or pharmacy for more details.

The vaccine is administered in two doses, and it is 90% effective in preventing the disease. The protection lasts at least 10 years after vaccination.

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