

The Vermont Department of Health has a very limited supply of Shingles vaccine available to administer. Once the supply in each Local Health Office is gone they will not be ordering more.

We will no longer supply shingles vaccine for several reasons:

- We met our short term goal
In February when the Vermont Department of Health began making shingles vaccine available to the public through their local health offices, our goal was to vaccinate up to 10% of the population over 60 years of age. We have almost achieved this goal! The Vermont Department of Health has purchased, distributed, and administered over 10,000 doses of shingles vaccine statewide.
- Vaccine supply is very limited
On July 1st the manufacturer, Merck, notified the Vermont Department of Health that there is a 10-14 week delay in all shingles vaccine orders. This has resulted in the Vermont Department of Health uncertain of delivery dates necessitating delaying and postponement of clinics in some areas.
- Resource allocation: The public health needs of all Vermonters must be considered
Purchasing and administering shingles vaccine is very expensive. This initiative represents a small segment of the total need for adult immunizations in Vermont. To meet additional public health goals, such as reducing the number of cases of pertussis (whooping cough), resources must be allocated to their achievement. Pertussis (whooping cough) continues to infect persons of all ages. One way to protect vulnerable infants is to immunize their parents, caregivers, grandparents, and close contacts. A successful pilot project immunizing new parents soon after the birth of their newborn shows cost effective results in 2 areas and may be expanded to others.
- Local considerations
Some pharmacies purchase shingles vaccine and administer it on site. Likewise, some insurance plans, such as Medicare Part D and AARP Supplemental Insurance, may cover the cost of shingles vaccine for eligible populations or require a co-payment often in the vicinity of \$30.

We recognize that the need for adult Vermonters to receive the shingles vaccine still exists. The Vermont Department of Health encourages health care providers and community partners to work together within their local areas to identify resources that may exist to assist adults in getting the shingles vaccination. If you share them with us, we'll be happy to inform callers.