

Boots Shingles Vaccination Service – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Which vaccine is used for the Boots Shingles Vaccination Service?

The Boots Shingles Vaccination Service uses a vaccine called Shingrix®.

How many doses of Shingrix® do I need?

A full course consists of two doses of Shingrix®, given a minimum of two months apart.

How is the vaccination given?

The vaccine is administered by intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. It is advisable for you to wear a short-sleeved top or loose-fitting clothing for your appointment.

Will I need a booster dose?

No booster dose is currently recommended.

How effective is the vaccination?

Shingrix® has evidence to support that it is over 90% effective at preventing shingles in clinical trials when completing a full course.†

† Shingrix Summary of Product Characteristics, available at <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/12054>

Is Shingrix® a live vaccine?

No, Shingrix® is an inactivated vaccine.

Does the vaccine contain egg?

No, there are no egg products in Shingrix®. However, the vaccine contains an ingredient which is produced in Chinese Hamster Ovary cells so may not be suitable if you are vegan or vegetarian.

Can I have Shingrix® at the same time as other vaccinations?

Shingrix® can be given at the same time as most other vaccinations, but you should ideally leave 7 days either side of having a COVID-19 vaccination or the adjuvanted influenza vaccine (a flu vaccine given to adults aged 65+).

Can I have the vaccine if I take medicines for other conditions?

As part of the consultation, we'll ask some questions about your medical history so that we can check that the service is suitable for you.

Can I get a shingles vaccination on the NHS?

People aged 70 to 79 can be vaccinated against shingles free of charge on the NHS. If you're eligible for an NHS shingles vaccination, you'll need to book this with your GP as we don't offer the free NHS service at Boots.

Is the NHS shingles vaccination the same as the one that Boots provides?

Most people will be offered a different vaccine on the NHS called Zostavax®. People who are severely immunocompromised will be offered Shingrix®.

Can I have Shingrix® if I have already had the NHS shingles vaccination?

No, the service is unsuitable for you if you have already previously received a full course of Shingrix® or Zostavax®.

I've already had shingles. Can I still be vaccinated?

Yes, but ideally you should wait a year after recovering from an active case of shingles, as boosting from natural infection is likely to offer protection for at least this time. If you are immunocompromised (e.g. due to medication or disease) then you may be vaccinated sooner, once you have recovered from the infection.

I've had recurrent shingles infections for a few years. Can I still be vaccinated?

If you have had two or more episodes of shingles in a one-year period, the Boots Shingles Vaccination Service is not suitable for you.

I currently have shingles and/or post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN). Will the vaccine treat this?

No, the vaccine is for the prevention of shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia, not for the treatment of these.

I've booked and paid for an appointment online. How do I change it?

You can change or cancel your appointment by going to My Orders in your account [here](#).

I've paid online but I no longer want the vaccination. Can I get a refund?

Yes, if you haven't yet had the appointment, you can cancel your order by going to My Orders in your account [here](#). This will refund the payment to your original payment method. Please allow up to 14 days for the refund to appear on your account.