

MEDIA RELEASE

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Free Shingles Vaccine Available at the Kittitas County Public Health Department

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) has free shingles vaccine for adults. There is a limited supply available, so vaccines will be available to those who qualify on a first come- first serve basis.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), shingles is caused by the varicella zoster virus, or VZV. This is the same virus that causes chickenpox. VZV stays in your body after causing chickenpox. If you have had chickenpox in the past, then VZV is inside you. For reasons that are not fully known, the virus can reactivate years later and cause shingles.

People 60 years and older should get vaccinated against shingles. Even if you have had shingles in the past, it is still advised that you get the shingles vaccine to protect from future occurrences. Only one vaccination is required to protect against shingles. If you have questions about whether you should be vaccinated, please contact the Kittitas County Public Health Department.

To schedule a shingles vaccine, please contact the Kittitas County Public Health Department for an appointment. For more information or questions, call KCPHD at 509-962-7515.

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