

# PROTECTING AGAINST SHINGLES:

## VACCINATION AND INNOVATION

# UNITE

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster, is a painful viral infection caused by the reactivation of the same virus responsible for chickenpox. Shingles affects about **1 million Americans** each year and typically manifests as a rash or “weeping,” fluid-filled blisters. They can take weeks to ooze and crust over, often accompanied by burning, shooting pain, tingling, and itching.<sup>1</sup>

The shingles vaccine is highly effective, providing **more than 90% protection**<sup>2</sup> against the condition and its long-term complications – which include nerve pain, infections, hearing and vision problems, brain inflammation, pneumonia, and even death.<sup>3</sup> Though people can’t “catch” shingles from someone else, those who are not immune to chickenpox can become infected through contact with fluid or breathing in virus particles from the blisters.<sup>1</sup>

Vaccination success against shingles underscores the importance of upholding accessibility and public trust in vaccines. That trust in science is particularly important as breakthrough research on vaccines to address other diseases, such as cancers and Alzheimer’s, shows promise.



### Shingles Vaccine in Motion<sup>4</sup>

**2006**

FDA approved the **first shingles vaccine in the U.S.**

FDA approved a **second shingles vaccine for ages 50+**

**2017**

**2021**

FDA expanded approval of shingles vaccine for **ages 18+ at increased risk**



## The Future of Shingles Vaccinations

People can have shingles

# more than once,

which underscores the importance of vaccines as preventative tools.<sup>1</sup>

Vaccination rates for shingles have steadily increased from

# 6.7% to 41.1%

in 2008 upon the first vaccine's approval

among adults 60+ in 2021.<sup>5</sup>

Single episodes of shingles are tied to a

# 20%

chance of long-term cognitive decline.<sup>6</sup>

**Safe and effective vaccines are critical to preventing painful conditions like shingles and protecting ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities from infectious diseases.**

**Visit [fightinfectiousdisease.org](https://fightinfectiousdisease.org) to learn more.**

1. [About Shingles \(Herpes Zoster\)](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
2. [Shingles Vaccination](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
3. [Shingles Symptoms and Complications](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
4. [Vaccine History Timeline](#) (Immunize.org)  
5. [Vaccination Coverage among Adults in the United States, National Health Interview Survey, 2021](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
6. [Herpes zoster and long-term risk of subjective cognitive decline](#) (Alzheimer's Research & Therapy)

