

Shingrix Vaccine: The shingles vaccine shortage across the US (including St. Albans pharmacies)

Across the United States, there's a shortage of the Shingrix Vaccine. This shortage is present in pharmacies throughout St. Albans and parts of Franklin County.

What is this new vaccine for?

- Shingrix is a new vaccine for the prevention of shingles. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone over the age of 50 receive the vaccination, even if previously been given the older Zostavax Vaccine.
- CDC reports Shingrix efficacy is 97% in preventing shingles after 2-doses. The previous Zostavax vaccine had a 51% chance of preventing shingles and its effectiveness wanes overtime with age.
- CDC also recommends Shingrix to patients who report no known history of chicken pox.

Why Should I get vaccinated?

- 1 out of 3 people will have a shingles outbreak in their lifetime.
- 10-15% of people who have an episode of shingles will experience symptoms of postherpetic neuralgia - a burning pain that persists after the rash and blisters disappear.
- Patients who are immunocompromised are eligible for the new Shingrix vaccine since it's an inactivated vaccine.

Tips to obtain the Shingrix Vaccine quickly in St. Albans:

- Call your pharmacy and ask if they have the vaccine in stock. If not stocked, secure a place on the waitlist or try calling other pharmacies.
- Obtain first and second doses at the same facility. Patients receiving their second dose have a higher priority on the waitlist after receiving their first dose; some pharmacies will reserve your second dose.
- Call your insurance provider; ask if they cover the vaccine. Medicare part D covers the cost of the vaccine or you may be eligible to be reimbursed based on your insurance provider, whereas Medicare part B does not cover the cost.
- If you have an underlying medical condition is present, consult a physician to increase your chances of receiving higher priority for the vaccination.