

Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care

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## Sessional Paper No. P-112

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Petition relating to OHIP coverage of the shingles vaccine (Sessional Paper No. P-112)  
Mr. McDonell. (Tabled May 08, 2013)

Petition relating to OHIP coverage of the shingles vaccine (Sessional Paper No. P-112)  
Mr. McDonell. (Tabled October 01, 2013)

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### Response:

The Ontario government currently publicly funds 21 different routine and non-routine vaccines through its provincial immunization program that protect against 16 diseases.

The total cost savings for an individual in Ontario, who start their immunization in infancy and receives all eligible routine vaccines is approximately \$2,545 per person if paid out of pocket. The decision to publicly fund vaccines is determined by many factors, such as: patterns of disease, vaccine effectiveness and safety, program delivery, recommendations from national and provincial expert immunization groups, cost effectiveness, and impact on the health system. For example, the Ontario government takes into consideration key information and recommendations provided by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and Public Health Ontario (PHO) on specific vaccines. PHO reviews epidemiologic data specific to Ontario to understand the prevalence and burden of disease in the province.

While Zostavax® is not, at this time, a publically-funded vaccine, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care continues to review and consider new scientific information about the shingles vaccine as it becomes available.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Matthews".

Honourable Deb Matthews