

Guide to Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines in Adults

Vaccine	Contraindications	Precautions ¹
Tetanus, diphtheria (Td)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guillain-Barre syndrome ≤ 6 weeks after previous dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
Measles, Mumps, Rubella² (MMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component • Pregnant now or may become pregnant within 1 month • Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., hematologic and solid tumors; congenital immunodeficiency; long-term immunosuppressive therapy³, or severely symptomatic HIV infection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent (≤ 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product)⁴ • History of thrombocytopenia or thrombocytopenic purpura • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
Hepatitis B (HepB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
Hepatitis A (HepA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
Varicella² (Var)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component • Substantial suppression of cellular immunity • Pregnant now or may become pregnant within 1 month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent (≤ 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product)⁴ • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
Influenza: Trivalent inactivated (TIV) and live, attenuated (LAIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction to previous vaccine dose or vaccine component, including egg protein • Live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) may be given only to healthy, non-pregnant persons 5–49 years of age. Do not give LAIV to persons with chronic disease that constitutes an increased risk when exposed to wild influenza virus (e.g., asthma, heart and renal disease, diabetes). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever • Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) is preferred for persons who have close contact with severely immunosuppressed persons during periods when the immunocompromised person requires a protective environment.
Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV) and/or Meningococcal (Men)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever

1. Events or conditions listed as precautions should be reviewed carefully. Benefits and risks of administering a specific vaccine to a person under these circumstances should be considered. If the risk from the vaccine is believed to outweigh the benefit, the vaccine should not be administered. If the benefit of vaccination is believed to outweigh the risk, the vaccine should be administered.
2. MMR and varicella vaccines can be administered on the same day. If not administered on the same day, these vaccines should be separated by ≥ 28 days.
3. Substantially immunosuppressive steroid dose is considered to be ≥ 2 weeks of daily receipt of ≥ 20 mg or ≥ 2 mg/kg body weight of prednisone or equivalent.
4. See pages 6–7 of source document noted below for details.

Adapted from "Guide to Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used [Pediatric] Vaccines," found in: CDC. General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). MMWR 2002;51(RR-2).

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3072.pdf • Item #P3072 (9/04)