

Guide to Contraindications and Precautions¹ to Commonly Used Vaccines in Adults*

Vaccine	Contraindications	Precautions ¹
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) Tetanus, diphtheria (Td)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component For Tdap only: Encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizures), not attributable to another identifiable cause, within 7 days of administration of previous dose of DTP, DTaP, or Tdap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks after a previous dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine History of arthus-type hypersensitivity reactions following a previous dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine; defer vaccination until at least 10 years have elapsed since the last tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine For Tdap only: Progressive or unstable neurologic disorder, uncontrolled seizures, or progressive encephalopathy; defer vaccination with Tdap until a treatment regimen has been established and the condition has stabilized
Human papilloma-virus (HPV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever Pregnancy
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component Pregnancy Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., from hematologic and solid tumors; receiving chemotherapy; congenital immunodeficiency; long-term immunosuppressive therapy³; or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever Recent (within 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product⁴) History of thrombocytopenia or thrombocytopenic purpura Need for tuberculin skin testing⁵
Varicella (Var)²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., from hematologic and solid tumors, receiving chemotherapy, congenital immunodeficiency or long-term immunosuppressive therapy³ or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised) Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever Recent (within 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product⁴) Receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., acyclovir, famciclovir, or valacyclovir) 24 hours before vaccination, if possible; delay resumption of these antiviral drugs for 14 days after vaccination
Influenza, injectable trivalent (TIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component, including egg protein 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever History of GBS within 6 wks of previous influenza vaccine
Influenza, live attenuated (LAIV)²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component, including egg protein Pregnancy Immunosuppression Certain chronic medical conditions⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever History of GBS within 6 wks of previous influenza vaccine Receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., amantadine, rimantadine, zanamivir, or oseltamivir) 48 hours before vaccination; avoid use of these antiviral drugs for 14 days after vaccination
Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous 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"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever Pregnancy
Hepatitis B (HepB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
Meningococcal, conjugate (MCV4) Meningococcal, polysaccharide (MPSV4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
Zoster (Zos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component Substantial suppression of cellular immunity Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever Receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., acyclovir, famciclovir, or valacyclovir) 24 hours before vaccination, if possible; delay resumption of these antiviral drugs for 14 days after vaccination

Footnotes

- Events or conditions listed as precautions should be reviewed carefully. Benefits of and risks for 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.
- LAIV, MMR, and varicella vaccines can be administered on the same day. If not administered on the same day, these vaccines should be separated by at least 28 days.
- Substantially immunosuppressive steroid dose is considered to be 2 weeks or more of daily receipt of 20 mg (or 2 mg/kg body weight) of prednisone or equivalent.
- Vaccine should be deferred for the appropriate interval if replacement immune globulin

products are being administered (see Table 5 in CDC. "General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices [ACIP]" at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm).

- Measles vaccination might suppress tuberculin reactivity temporarily. Measles-containing vaccine can be administered on the same day as tuberculin skin testing. If testing cannot be performed until after the day of MMR vaccination, the test should be postponed for at least 4 weeks after the vaccination. If an urgent need exists to skin test, do so with the understanding that reactivity might be reduced by the vaccine.
- For details, see CDC. "Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010" at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm.

*Adapted from "Table 6. Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines," found in: CDC. "General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices." *MMWR* 2011; 60(No. RR-2), p.40–41.