

# Guide to Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines in Adults<sup>1,\*†</sup>

Vaccine	Contraindications <sup>1</sup>	Precautions <sup>1</sup>
<b>Influenza, injectable trivalent (TIV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after previous dose of any influenza vaccine or to a vaccine component, including egg protein</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>History of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 wks of previous influenza vaccination</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza, live attenuated (LAIV)<sup>2</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of any influenza vaccine or to a vaccine component, including egg protein</li> <li>Immune suppression</li> <li>Certain chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart or kidney disease.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Pregnancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>History of GBS within 6 wks of previous influenza vaccination</li> <li>Receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., amantadine, rimantadine, zanamivir, or oseltamivir) 48 hours before vaccination, if possible; avoid use of these antiviral drugs for 14 days after vaccination</li> </ul>
<b>Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)</b> <b>Tetanus, diphtheria (Td)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> <li><b>For Tdap only:</b> Encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, or prolonged seizures) not attributable to another identifiable cause within 7 days of administration of a previous dose of DTP, DTaP, or Tdap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>GBS within 6 weeks after a previous dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine</li> <li>History of arthus-type hypersensitivity reactions after a previous dose of tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine; defer vaccination until at least 10 years have elapsed since the last tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine</li> <li><b>For Tdap only:</b> Progressive or unstable neurologic disorder, uncontrolled seizures, or progressive encephalopathy until a treatment regimen has been established and the condition has stabilized</li> </ul>
<b>Varicella (Var)<sup>2</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> <li>Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., from hematologic and solid tumors, receipt of chemotherapy, congenital immunodeficiency or long-term immunosuppressive therapy<sup>4</sup> or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised)</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>Recent (within 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product)<sup>5</sup></li> <li>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</li> </ul>
<b>Human papilloma-virus (HPV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> </ul>
<b>Zoster (Zos)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a vaccine component</li> <li>Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., from hematologic and solid tumors, receipt of chemotherapy, or long-term immunosuppressive therapy<sup>4</sup> or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised)</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>Receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., acyclovir, famciclovir, or valacyclovir) 24 hours before vaccination, if possible; avoid use of these antiviral drugs for 14 days after vaccination</li> </ul>
<b>Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)<sup>2</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> <li>Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., from hematologic and solid tumors, receipt of chemotherapy, congenital immunodeficiency, long-term immunosuppressive therapy<sup>4</sup> or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised)</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>Recent (within 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product)<sup>5</sup></li> <li>History of thrombocytopenia or thrombocytopenic purpura</li> <li>Need for tuberculin skin testing<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> </ul>
<b>Meningococcal: conjugate (MCV4); polysaccharide (MPSV4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> </ul>
<b>Hepatitis A (HepA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> </ul>
<b>Hepatitis B (HepB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> </ul>

## Footnotes

- Vaccine package inserts and the full ACIP recommendations for these vaccines should be consulted for additional information on vaccine-related contraindications and precautions and for more information on vaccine excipients. 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 live vaccines should be separated by at least 28 days.
- For details, see CDC. Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010. *MMWR* 2010;59(No. RR-8), available at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm).
- 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](http://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.

\*Adapted from CDC. Table 6. Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines. "General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices." *MMWR* 2011; 60(No. RR-2):40–41, and from Atkinson W, Wolfe S, Hamborsky J, eds. Appendix A. Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html).

†Regarding latex allergy: some types of prefilled syringes contain natural rubber latex or dry natural latex rubber. Consult the package insert for any vaccine given.

More information on vaccine components, contraindications, and precautions also is available from specific vaccine package inserts and ACIP recommendations for specific vaccines, and is summarized in Atkinson W, Wolfe S, Hamborsky J, eds. *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*. 12th ed. Washington, DC: Public Health Foundations, 2011 ([www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html)).