

# VACCINATE ADULTS!

from the Immunization Action Coalition — [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

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## Looking for Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)?

Visit [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)

## New! ACIP recommends routine vaccination of males 11 through 21 years old against human papillomavirus infection

On December 23, 2011, CDC issued updated recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for vaccinating males with quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4; Gardasil; Merck). HPV4 is directed against human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, and 18. One of ACIP's primary goals in recommending that males be vaccinated is to protect them against some anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancers caused primarily by HPV type 16. Previously, ACIP had recommended permissive use of HPV4 in males age 9–26 years for the prevention of genital warts.

Following are the recommendations published in *MMWR* ([www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm)) for administering HPV4 to males:

- Routinely vaccinate males age 11–12 years with a 3-dose series of HPV4. The series can be started in males as young as age 9.
- Vaccinate males age 13 through 21 if they have not been vaccinated previously or have not completed the 3-dose series.
- Males age 22 through 26 years may be vaccinated.

This means that any male in this age range who wishes to be protected against human papillomavirus may receive the 3-dose series of HPV4 vaccine.

- Routinely vaccinate males through age 26 years if they are immunocompromised as a result of infection (including HIV), disease, or medications and have not been vaccinated previously or have not completed the 3-dose series.
- Routinely vaccinate men who have sex with men (MSM) through age 26 if they have not been vaccinated previously or have not completed the 3-dose series. MSM are at higher risk for infection with HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18 and associated conditions, including genital warts and anal cancer.

And be sure to continue vaccinating young women with HPV vaccine. HPV vaccine is routinely recommended for young women age 11 through 26 years. According to CDC National Immunization Survey data, only 49% of females 13–17 years have started their HPV series and only 32% have completed the 3-dose series. There is lots of work to do!

## Ask the Experts

*IAC extends thanks to our experts, medical epidemiologist Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH; nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN; medical officer Iyabode Akinsanya-Beysolow, MD, MPH; and medical epidemiologist William L. Atkinson, MD, MPH. All are with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*

### Human papillomavirus (HPV)

**Please describe the new recommendations for the use of HPV4 vaccine in males and explain**

### Immunization questions?

- Call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636 or (800) CDC-INFO
- Email [nipinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:nipinfo@cdc.gov)
- Call your state health dept. (phone numbers at [www.immunize.org/coordinators](http://www.immunize.org/coordinators))

### how these new recommendations differ from the previous ones.

ACIP recommends routine vaccination of males age 11–12 years with HPV4 (Gardasil, Merck) administered as a 3-dose series. The vaccination series can be started beginning at age 9 years. Vaccination with HPV4 is recommended for males age 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series. Males age 22 through 26 years may be vaccinated with HPV4.

ACIP recommends that immunocompromised males who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series receive routine vaccination with HPV4 through age 26 years.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are at higher risk for infection with HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18 and associated conditions, including genital warts and anal cancer. ACIP recommends that MSM who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series receive routine vaccination with HPV4 through age 26 years.

Previously, ACIP had issued permissive recommendations for HPV4 use in males age 9–26 years for the prevention of genital warts.

To obtain a copy of the new recommendations,

which were published in *MMWR* in December 2011, see [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm).

### Is it recommended that patients age 26 years start the HPV vaccination series even though they will be older than 26 when they complete it?

Yes. HPV vaccine is recommended for all women through age 26 years and also may be given to men through that age. So, the 3-dose series can be started at age 26 even if it will not be completed at

(continued on page 10)

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[www.immunize.org/subscribe](http://www.immunize.org/subscribe)

## Vaccinate Adults!

online at [www.immunize.org/va](http://www.immunize.org/va)  
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[www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org)

[www.izcoalitions.org](http://www.izcoalitions.org)

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# Immunization Action Coalition and CDC are official partners in providing VIS translations

If you are a healthcare professional who provides vaccination services to people who don't speak English, the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) is the "go-to" spot for translations of Vaccine Information Statements (VISs). For more than a decade, IAC has made these translations available on [immunize.org](http://immunize.org). The VIS translations in up to 40 languages are donated to IAC from generous partners and volunteers. In October 2011, IAC entered into a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support IAC's role as the official clearinghouse of VIS translations. In addition, as a result of this federal funding and effective immediately, IAC will consistently provide translations in seven languages for each routinely recommended VIS whenever VISs are newly updated by CDC. The languages we will provide (within 30 days of CDC's release of an English VIS) are

- Arabic
- Chinese (Traditional)
- French (European)
- Russian
- Spanish (Mexican)
- Somali
- Vietnamese

## IAC'S GENEROUS TRANSLATION PARTNERS

IAC would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of our generous translation partners, who we will continue to count on to provide VISs in additional languages. We are grateful for their time and dedication to providing these helpful patient materials.

- ♦ Arkansas Department of Health
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The screenshot shows the Immunization Action Coalition website. The main heading is "Vaccine Information Statements". Below this, there is a section titled "By Federal Law, You Must Provide Current VISs". This section includes a "VACCINE INDEX" and a "LANGUAGE INDEX" with a list of languages available for translation. To the right, there is a "Current VIS Dates" table listing various vaccines and their update dates. At the bottom of the page, the website URL [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis) is displayed.

## TRANSLATE FOR IAC

If you are interested in becoming a translation partner of IAC, please contact [translations@immunize.org](mailto:translations@immunize.org). For details about how to provide VIS translations so they can be shared with the world via [immunize.org](http://immunize.org), go to [www.immunize.org/translate.asp](http://www.immunize.org/translate.asp).

To find out when new or revised VIS translations are available, subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, *IAC Express*, at [www.immunize.org/subscribe](http://www.immunize.org/subscribe).

## Vaccine Information Statements

The VIS section on [immunize.org](http://immunize.org) includes all VISs published in the United States and offers them in up to 40 languages.

- Visit IAC's [VIS web section](#)
- Access IAC's [VIS translations](#)
- Access [chronological listing of new and updated VISs](#) and their translations

## Wallet-sized immunization record cards for all ages: For adults, children & teens, and for a lifetime!



Now you can give any patient a permanent vaccination record card designed specifically for their age group: child & teen, adult, or lifetime. These brightly colored cards are printed on durable rip-, smudge-, and water-proof paper. To view the cards or for more details, go to [www.immunize.org/shop](http://www.immunize.org/shop) and click on the images.

Buy 1 box (250 cards) for \$45 (first order of a 250-card box comes with a 30-day, money-back guarantee). Discounts for larger orders: 2 boxes \$40 each; 3 boxes \$37.50 each; 4 boxes \$34.50 each

To order, visit [www.immunize.org/shop](http://www.immunize.org/shop), or use the order form on page 12.

To receive sample cards, contact us: [admininfo@immunize.org](mailto:admininfo@immunize.org)

## "Immunization Techniques — Best Practices with Infants, Children, and Adults"



The California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch, updated its award-winning training video, "Immunization Techniques: Best Practices with Infants, Children, and Adults." The 25-minute DVD can be used to train new employees and to refresh the skills of experienced staff on administering injectable, oral, and nasal-spray vaccines to children, teens, and adults. Make sure your healthcare setting has the 2010 edition!

The cost is \$17 each for 1–9 copies; \$10.25 each for 10–24 copies; \$7 each for 25–49 copies; \$5.75 each for 50–99 copies.

To order, visit [www.immunize.org/shop](http://www.immunize.org/shop), or use the order form on page 12.

For 100 or more copies, contact us for discount pricing: [admininfo@immunize.org](mailto:admininfo@immunize.org)

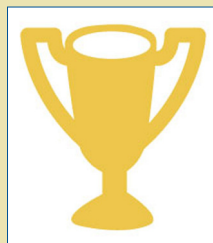
For healthcare settings in California, contact your local health department immunization program for a free copy.

## IAC Honors Healthcare Institutions With Stellar Influenza Vaccination Policies

IAC's Honor Roll for Patient Safety recognizes hospitals, professional societies, and government entities that have taken a stand for patient safety by creating strong mandatory influenza vaccination policies for healthcare workers. More than 150 organizations are now enrolled.

Read the position statements of leading medical organizations and see the organizations now enrolled. You can apply for your organization to become a member. Access the Honor Roll at

[www.immunize.org/honor-roll](http://www.immunize.org/honor-roll)



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# Vaccine Highlights

## Recommendations, schedules, and more

Editor's note: The information in *Vaccine Highlights* is current as of February 3, 2012.

### The next ACIP meetings

A committee of 15 national experts, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) advises CDC on the appropriate use of vaccines. ACIP meets 3 times a year in Atlanta; meetings are open to the public. The next meetings will be held on Feb. 22–23 and June 20–21. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip).

ACIP periodically issues public health recommendations on the use of vaccines. Clinicians who vaccinate should have a current set for reference. Published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, ACIP recommendations are easily available. Here are sources:

- Download them from links on IAC's website: [www.immunize.org/acip](http://www.immunize.org/acip).
- Download them from CDC's website: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm).

### New ACIP recommendations

On Feb. 3, 2012, CDC published "Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule—United States, 2012" as a QuickGuide. To obtain a copy of the schedule, see the seven pages at the end of the *MMWR* issue located at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6104.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6104.pdf).

On Dec. 23, 2011, *MMWR* published "Recommendations on the Use of Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine in Males." ACIP recommends routine vaccination of males age 11 or 12 years with quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4; Gardasil; Merck) administered as a 3-dose series that can be started in males as young as age 9 years. Vaccination is also recommended for males age 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously or have not completed the series. Males age 22 through 26 years may be vaccinated.

ACIP also recommends vaccination with HPV4 in males 22–26 who are immunocompromised and for men who have sex with men. To obtain a copy of the recommendations, see pages 1705–1708 of the *MMWR* issue located at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6050.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6050.pdf).

On Dec. 23, 2011, CDC published ACIP recommendations titled "Use of Hepatitis B Vaccination for Adults with Diabetes Mellitus." ACIP recommends that hepatitis B vaccine be administered to unvaccinated adult diabetics age 19 through 59 years. The recommendations also state that hepatitis B vaccine may be administered to unvaccinated diabetics age 60 years and older at the discretion of the treating clinician. To

obtain a copy of the recommendations, see pages 1709–1711 of the *MMWR* issue located at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6050.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6050.pdf).

On Nov. 25, 2011, CDC published ACIP recommendations titled *Immunization of Health-Care Personnel*. To obtain a copy, go to [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/r6007.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/r6007.pdf).

### Other vaccine news

On Nov. 11, 2011, CDC published "Update on Herpes Zoster Vaccine: Licensure for Persons Aged 50 Through 59 Years." It states that at its June 2011 meeting, ACIP declined to recommend use of herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine for adults age 50 through 59 years and reaffirmed its current recommendation that the vaccine be routinely recommended for adults age 60 years and older. ACIP cited the limited supply of Zostavax as a concern in recommending an expanded age indication for the vaccine. ACIP will continue to monitor supply issues and might update recommendations regarding vaccination of adults age 50 through 59 years when an adequate and stable supply of the vaccine is assured. To access the article, see page 1528 of the *MMWR* issue located at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6044.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6044.pdf).

On Dec. 30, 2011, FDA issued a press release announcing that it has approved the use of the pneumococcal 13-valent conjugate vaccine, Prevnar 13 (Pfizer), to prevent pneumonia and invasive disease caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in people age 50 and older. Prevnar 13 was originally approved on Feb. 24, 2010, for use in infants and children age 6 weeks through 5 years. The FDA press release is available at [www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm285431.htm](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm285431.htm).

### New VISs

On Feb. 2, CDC issued an updated VIS for hepatitis B vaccine. To access the VIS, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/hepatitis\\_b.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/hepatitis_b.pdf).

On Jan. 24, CDC issued an updated VIS for Td and Tdap vaccines. It incorporates updated ACIP recommendations regarding children age 7 through 9 years, adults 65 and older, and pregnant women. It also includes a paragraph about the risk of syncope. Because of the addition of risk information, CDC encourages providers to begin using the updated edition as soon as possible. To access the VIS, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/td\\_tdap.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/td_tdap.pdf).

On Dec. 7, 2011, CDC released a revised Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine VIS. To access it, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/je\\_ixiario.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/je_ixiario.pdf).

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At the same time, you'll be able to sign up to receive other free IAC publications!

On Nov. 8, 2011, CDC released a revised inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) VIS. It does not differ significantly from the previous edition. To access it, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/polio-ipv.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/polio-ipv.pdf).

On Oct. 25, 2011, CDC issued an updated hepatitis A vaccine VIS. It includes recommendations for families and other close contacts of newly arriving adopted children and information about post-exposure prophylaxis. It's available at [www.immunize.org/vis/hepatitis-a.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/hepatitis-a.pdf).

### New and updated VISs

The use of most Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) is mandated by federal law. Listed below are the dates of the most current VISs. Check your stock of VISs against this list. If you have outdated VISs, print current ones from IAC's website at [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis). You'll find VISs in more than 30 languages.

DTaP/DT/DTP	5/17/07	MMRV	5/21/10
Hepatitis A	10/25/11	PCV	4/16/10
Hepatitis B	2/2/12	PPSV	10/6/09
Hib	12/16/98	Polio	11/8/11
HPV (Cervarix)	5/3/11	Rabies	10/6/09
HPV (Gardasil)	5/3/11	Rotavirus	12/6/10
Influenza (LAIV)	7/26/11	Shingles	10/6/09
Influenza (TIV)	7/26/11	Td/Tdap	1/24/12
Japan. enceph.	12/7/11	Typhoid	5/19/04
Meningococcal	10/14/11	Varicella	3/13/08
MMR	3/13/08	Yellow fever	3/30/11

Multi-vaccine VIS .....9/18/08  
(for 6 vaccines given to infants/children:  
DTaP, IPV, Hib, HepB, PCV, RV)

# Use These CDC Fact Sheets to Keep Patients and Staff Up to Date on Vaccine Topics

## The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

For more information on vaccines, vaccine-preventable diseases, and vaccine safety:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imzmaterials>

last updated May 2011

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sets the U.S. childhood immunization schedule based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- Before recommending a vaccine the ACIP considers many factors, including the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.
- Candidates for ACIP membership are screened carefully prior to being selected to join the committee.
- The ACIP develops vaccine recommendations for children and adults. The recommendations include the age(s) when the vaccine should be given, the number of doses needed, the amount of time between doses, and precautions and contraindications.

candidate or an immediate family member by a vaccine manufacturer, holding a patent on a vaccine or related product, or serving on a Board of Directors of a vaccine manufacturer, exclude people from ACIP membership. However, because ACIP members are experts in the vaccine field, they may be involved in vaccine studies. Therefore, ACIP members who lead vaccine studies at their respective institutions may become ACIP members but they must abstain from voting on recommendations related to the vaccine they are studying. In addition, they cannot vote on any other vaccines manufactured by the company funding the research or on any vaccine that is similar to the one(s) they are studying.

**The Adult Immunization Schedule** Adults also need protection against several vaccine-preventable diseases. Therefore, in addition to the childhood immunization schedule, the ACIP makes recommendations for the adult immunization schedule. The ACIP considers many of the same factors for adult immunization recommendations that they consider when making recommendations about the childhood schedule. The professional organizations that work with the ACIP to develop the annual adult schedule include the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American College of Physicians (ACP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

questions and answers

### What is the ACIP?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is a group of medical and public health experts that set the U.S. childhood immunization schedule. The ACIP consists of 15 experts who are making vaccine recommendations. The ACIP works with 10 professional societies in the health field. Examples of these are the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Physicians (ACP). These members consider the perspectives of groups that will impact people with certain vaccine-related issues are not considered for membership. For



## Ensuring the Safety of Vaccines in the United States

last updated May 2011

- Currently, the United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in its history.
- The United States' long-standing vaccine safety system ensures that vaccines are as safe as possible. As new information and science become available, this system is, and will continue to be, updated and improved.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensures the safety, effectiveness, and availability of vaccines for the United States. Before the FDA licenses (approves) a vaccine, the vaccine is tested extensively by its manufacturer. FDA scientists and medical professionals carefully evaluate all the available information about the vaccine to determine its safety and effectiveness.
- Although most common side effects of a vaccine are identified in studies before the vaccine is licensed, rare adverse events may not be detected in these studies. Therefore, the U.S. vaccine safety system continuously monitors for adverse events (possible side effects) after a vaccine is licensed. When millions of people receive a vaccine, less common side effects that were not identified earlier may show up.

**Adverse Events and Side Effects** Adverse events reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) are not necessarily side effects caused by vaccination. An **adverse event** is a health problem that happens after vaccination that may or may not be caused by a vaccine. By definition, a **side effect** has been shown to be linked to a vaccine by scientific studies.



For more information on vaccines, vaccine-preventable diseases, and vaccine safety:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imzmaterials>

### Prelicensure: Vaccine Safety Testing

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must license (approve) a vaccine before it can be used in the United States. FDA regulations for the development of vaccines ensure their safety, purity, potency, and effectiveness. Before a vaccine is approved by FDA for use by the public, results of studies on safety and effectiveness of the vaccine are evaluated by highly trained FDA scientists and doctors. FDA also inspects the vaccine manufacturing sites to make sure they comply with current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) regulations.

### Vaccine Development

Vaccine development begins in the laboratory before any tests in animals or humans are done. If laboratory tests show that a vaccine has potential, it is usually tested in animals. If a vaccine is safe in animals, and studies suggest that it will be safe in people, clinical trials with volunteers are next.

### Clinical Trials

Typical clinical trials for a vaccine involve several phases. In Phase I, a small group of healthy people are given the vaccine to see if it is safe and to determine the best dose. In Phase II, a larger group of healthy people are given the vaccine to see if it is safe and to determine the best dose. In Phase III, an even larger group of healthy people are given the vaccine to see if it is safe and to determine the best dose. After Phase III, the vaccine is licensed by the FDA.

## Understanding How Vaccines Work

last updated May 2011

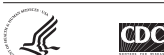
Diseases that vaccines prevent can be dangerous, or even deadly. Vaccines greatly reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease. This fact sheet explains how the body fights infection and how vaccines work to protect people by producing immunity.

### The Immune System—The Body's Defense Against Infection

To understand how vaccines work, it is helpful to first look at how the body fights illness. When germs, such as bacteria or viruses, invade the body, they attack and multiply. This invasion is called an infection, and the infection is what causes illness. The immune system uses several tools to fight infection. Blood contains red blood cells, for carrying oxygen to tissues and organs, and white or immune cells, for fighting infection. These white cells consist primarily of B-lymphocytes, T-lymphocytes, and macrophages.

- **Macrophages** are white blood cells that swallow up and digest germs, plus dead or dying cells. The macrophages leave behind parts of the invading germs called antigens. The body identifies antigens as dangerous and stimulates the body to attack them.
- **Antibodies** attack the antigens left behind by the macrophages. Antibodies are produced by distinctive white blood cells called B-lymphocytes.
- **T-lymphocytes** are another type of defensive white blood cell. They attack cells in the body that have already been infected.

The first time the body encounters a germ, it can take several days to make and use all the germ-fighting tools needed to get over the infection. After the infection, the immune system remembers what it learned about how to protect the body against that disease.



## Understanding Thimerosal, Mercury, and Vaccine Safety

For more information on vaccines, vaccine-preventable diseases, and vaccine safety:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imzmaterials>

last updated May 2011

- Thimerosal is a mercury-containing compound that prevents the growth of dangerous bacteria and fungi. It is used as a preservative for flu vaccines in multi-dose vials, to keep the vaccine free from contamination. Thimerosal is also used during the manufacturing process for some vaccines to prevent the growth of microbes.
- In 1999, as a precautionary measure, the U.S. Public Health Service recommended removing thimerosal as a preservative from vaccines to reduce mercury exposure among infants as much as possible.
- Today, except for some flu vaccines in multi-dose vials, no recommended childhood vaccines contain thimerosal as a preservative.
- In all other recommended childhood vaccines, no thimerosal is present, or the amount of thimerosal

### questions and answers

**What is thimerosal? Is it the same as mercury?** Thimerosal is a compound that contains mercury. Mercury is a metal found naturally in the environment.

**Why is thimerosal used in some vaccines?** Because it prevents the growth of dangerous microbes, thimerosal is used as a preservative in multi-dose vials of the vaccine, and in two other childhood vaccines, it is used in the manufacturing process. When each new needle is inserted into the multi-dose vial, it is possible for microbes to get into the vial. The preservative, thimerosal, prevents contamination in the multi-dose vial when individual doses are drawn from it. Receiving a vaccine contaminated with bacteria can be deadly.

For two childhood vaccines, thimerosal is used to prevent the growth of microbes during the manufacturing process. When thimerosal is used this way, it is removed later in the process. Only trace (very small) amounts of thimerosal remain in the vaccine. The only childhood vaccines today that contain thimerosal are one DTap and one DTap-Hib.

## Understanding the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

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- The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is one component of the United States' comprehensive vaccine safety monitoring system.
- VAERS reports are monitored carefully by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Reports of adverse events (possible side effects) after vaccination do not mean that the reported problem was caused by a vaccine. Reports are signals that alert scientists of possible cause-and-effect relationships that need to be investigated.
- Anyone can submit a report to VAERS including health care professionals, vaccine manufacturers, vaccine recipients, and parents or family members of people who have received a vaccine.

monitoring VAERS, conducting studies, and sharing findings, appropriate actions are taken to protect the public's health.

For example, if VAERS identifies a mild adverse event that is verified as a side effect in a focused study, this information is reviewed by CDC, FDA, and vaccine policy makers. In this situation, the vaccine may continue to be recommended for the disease prevention benefits from vaccination outweigh the risks of a newly found side effect.

Information about newly found side effects is added to the vaccine's package insert that has safety information. Newly found side effects also are added to the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for that vaccine. If serious side effects are found, and if the risks of the vaccine side effect outweigh the benefits, the recommendation to use the vaccine is withdrawn.

**Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)** are information sheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that explain to vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives both the benefits and risks of a vaccine. Federal law requires that VISs be handed out whenever (before each dose) certain vaccinations are given.

**Adverse events** reported to VAERS are not necessarily side effects caused by vaccination. An **adverse event** is a health problem that happens after vaccination that may or may not be caused by a vaccine. These events may require further investigation. By definition, a **side effect** has been shown to be linked to a vaccine by scientific studies.

Before the FDA licenses (approves) a vaccine for use, the vaccine must be tested with volunteers during clinical trials to make sure it is safe and effective. Sometimes side effects show up in clinical trials. Most often side effects found in clinical trials are minor such as possible pain at the injection site, and the vaccine is licensed because the disease prevention benefits outweigh the risk of getting the side effect.

As part of the United States' comprehensive vaccine safety monitoring system, VAERS detects any vaccine adverse events, signaling to scientists that focused studies are needed to determine whether the adverse event is a side effect or if there is no medical link.



Download these CDC fact sheets at  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/hcp/provider-resources-safety-sheets.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/hcp/provider-resources-safety-sheets.html)

# Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization (Age 19 years & older) (Page 1 of 4)

Vaccine name and route	People for whom vaccination is recommended	Schedule for vaccine administration (any vaccine can be given with another)	Contraindications and precautions (mild illness is not a contraindication)
<b>Influenza</b> Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) <i>Give IM or ID (intradermally)</i>  Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) <i>Give intranasally</i>	For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccination is recommended for all adults. (This includes healthy adults ages 19–49yrs without risk factors.)</li> <li>• LAIV is approved only for healthy nonpregnant people age 2–49yrs.</li> <li>• Adults age 18 through 64yrs may be given any intramuscular TIV product or, alternatively, the intradermal TIV product (Fluzone Intradermal).</li> <li>• Adults ages 65yrs and older may be given standard-dose TIV or, alternatively, the high-dose TIV (Fluzone High-Dose).</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> LAIV may not be given to some adults; see contraindications and precautions listed in far right column.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 1 dose every year in the fall or winter.</li> <li>• Begin vaccination services as soon as vaccine is available and continue until the supply is depleted.</li> <li>• Continue to give vaccine to unvaccinated adults throughout the influenza season (including when influenza activity is present in the community) and at other times when the risk of influenza exists.</li> <li>• If 2 or more of the following live virus vaccines are to be given—LAIV, MMR, Var, and/or yellow fever—they should be given on the same day. If they are not, space them by at least 28d.</li> </ul>	<b>Contraindications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine, to any of its components, including egg protein.</li> <li>• For LAIV only: pregnancy; chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurological/neuromuscular, hematologic, or metabolic (including diabetes) disorders; immunosuppression (including that caused by medications or HIV).</li> </ul> <b>Precautions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• History of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6wks following previous influenza vaccination.</li> <li>• For LAIV only: receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., amantadine, rimantadine, zanamivir, or oseltamivir) 48hrs before vaccination. Avoid use of these antiviral drugs for 14d after vaccination.</li> </ul>
<b>Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV)</b> <i>Give IM or SC</i>	For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People age 65yrs and older.</li> <li>• People younger than age 65yrs who have chronic illness or other risk factors, including chronic cardiac or pulmonary disease (including asthma), chronic liver disease, alcoholism, diabetes, CSF leaks, cigarette smoking, as well as candidates for or recipients of cochlear implants and people living in special environments or social settings (including American Indian/Alaska Natives age 50 through 64yrs if recommended by local public health authorities).</li> <li>• Those at highest risk of fatal pneumococcal infection, including people who               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have anatomic or functional asplenia, including sickle cell disease.</li> <li>- Have an immunocompromising condition, including HIV infection, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, multiple myeloma, generalized malignancy, chronic renal failure, or nephrotic syndrome.</li> <li>- Are receiving immunosuppressive chemotherapy (including corticosteroids).</li> <li>- Have received an organ or bone marrow transplant.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 1 dose if unvaccinated or if previous vaccination history is unknown.</li> <li>• Give a 1-time revaccination to people               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Age 65yrs and older if 1st dose was given prior to age 65yrs and 5yrs have elapsed since dose #1.</li> <li>- Age 19 through 64yrs who are at highest risk of fatal pneumococcal infection or rapid antibody loss (see the 3rd bullet in the box to left for listings of people at highest risk) and 5yrs have elapsed since dose #1.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Contraindication</b> Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components. <b>Precaution</b> Moderate or severe acute illness.

\* This document was adapted from the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). To obtain copies of these recommendations, call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636; visit CDC’s website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm); or visit the Immunization Action

Coalition (IAC) website at [www.immunize.org/acip](http://www.immunize.org/acip). This table is revised periodically. Visit IAC’s website at [www.immunize.org/adultrules](http://www.immunize.org/adultrules) to make sure you have the most current version.

Vaccine name and route	People for whom vaccination is recommended	Schedule for vaccine administration (any vaccine can be given with another)	Contraindications and precautions (mild illness is not a contraindication)
<b>MMR</b> (Measles, mumps, rubella) <i>Give SC</i>	<p>For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People born in 1957 or later (especially those born outside the U.S.) should receive at least 1 dose of MMR if there is no laboratory evidence of immunity or documentation of a dose given on or after the first birthday.</li> <li>• People in high-risk groups, such as healthcare personnel (paid, unpaid, or volunteer), students entering college and other post-high school educational institutions, and international travelers, should receive a total of 2 doses.</li> <li>• People born before 1957 are usually considered immune, but evidence of immunity (serology or documented history of 2 doses of MMR) should be considered for healthcare personnel.</li> <li>• Women of childbearing age who do not have acceptable evidence of rubella immunity or vaccination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 1 or 2 doses (see criteria in 1st and 2nd bullets in box to left).</li> <li>• If dose #2 is recommended, give it no sooner than 4wks after dose #1.</li> <li>• If a pregnant woman is found to be rubella susceptible, give 1 dose of MMR postpartum.</li> <li>• If 2 or more of the following live virus vaccines are to be given—LAIV, MMR, Var, Zos, and/or yellow fever—they should be given on the same day. If they are not, space them by at least 28d.</li> <li>• Within 72hrs of measles exposure, give 1 dose as postexposure prophylaxis to susceptible adults.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Routine post-vaccination serologic testing is not recommended.</p>	<p><b>Contraindications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components.</li> <li>• Pregnancy or possibility of pregnancy within 4wks.</li> <li>• Severe immunodeficiency (e.g., hematologic and solid tumors; receiving chemotherapy; congenital immunodeficiency; long-term immunosuppressive therapy; or severely symptomatic HIV).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> HIV infection is NOT a contraindication to MMR for those who are not severely immunocompromised (i.e., CD4+ T-lymphocyte counts are greater than or equal to 200 cells/μL).</p> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• If blood, plasma, and/or immune globulin were given in past 11m, see ACIP statement <a href="#">General Recommendations on Immunization</a>* regarding time to wait before vaccinating.</li> <li>• History of thrombocytopenia or thrombocytopenic purpura.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If TST (tuberculosis skin test) and MMR are both needed but not given on same day, delay TST for 4–6wks after MMR.</p>
<b>Varicella</b> (chickenpox) (Var) <i>Give SC</i>	<p>For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All adults without evidence of immunity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Evidence of immunity is defined as written documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine; a history of varicella disease or herpes zoster (shingles) based on healthcare-provider diagnosis; laboratory evidence of immunity; and/or birth in the U.S. before 1980, with the exceptions that follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthcare personnel (HCP) born in the U.S. before 1980 who do not meet any of the criteria above should be tested or given the 2-dose vaccine series. If testing indicates they are not immune, give the 1st dose of varicella vaccine immediately. Give the 2nd dose 4–8 wks later.</li> <li>- Pregnant women born in the U.S. before 1980 who do not meet any of the criteria above should either 1) be tested for susceptibility during pregnancy and if found susceptible, given the 1st dose of varicella vaccine postpartum before hospital discharge, or 2) not be tested for susceptibility and given the 1st dose of varicella vaccine postpartum before hospital discharge. Give the 2nd dose 4–8wks later.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 2 doses.</li> <li>• Dose #2 is given 4–8wks after dose #1.</li> <li>• If dose #2 is delayed, do not repeat dose #1. Just give dose #2.</li> <li>• If 2 or more of the following live virus vaccines are to be given—LAIV, MMR, Var, Zos, and/or yellow fever—they should be given on the same day. If they are not, space them by at least 28d.</li> <li>• May use as postexposure prophylaxis if given within 5d.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Routine post-vaccination serologic testing is not recommended.</p>	<p><b>Contraindications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components.</li> <li>• Pregnancy or possibility of pregnancy within 4wks.</li> <li>• People on high-dose immunosuppressive therapy or who are immunocompromised because of malignancy and primary or acquired cellular immunodeficiency, including HIV/AIDS (although vaccination may be considered if CD4+ T-lymphocyte counts are greater than or equal to 200 cells/μL. See <a href="#">MMWR 2007;56,RR-4</a>).</li> </ul> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• If blood, plasma, and/or immune globulin (IG or VZIG) were given in past 11m, see ACIP statement <a href="#">General Recommendations on Immunization</a>* regarding time to wait before vaccinating.</li> <li>• Receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., acyclovir, famciclovir, or valacyclovir) 24hrs before vaccination, if possible; delay resumption of these antiviral drugs for 14d after vaccination.</li> </ul>
<b>Zoster</b> (shingles) (Zos) <i>Give SC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People age 60yrs and older.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 1-time dose if unvaccinated, regardless of previous history of herpes zoster (shingles) or chickenpox.</li> <li>• If 2 or more of the following live virus vaccines are to be given—MMR, Zos, and/or yellow fever—they should be given on the same day. If they are not, space them by at least 28d.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contraindications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous anaphylactic reaction to any component of zoster vaccine.</li> <li>• Primary cellular or acquired immunodeficiency.</li> <li>• Pregnancy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• Receipt of specific antivirals (i.e., acyclovir, famciclovir, or valacyclovir) 24hrs before vaccination, if possible; delay resumption of these antiviral drugs for 14d after vaccination.</li> </ul>



# Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization (Age 19 years & older) (Page 3 of 4)

Vaccine name and route	People for whom vaccination is recommended	Schedule for vaccine administration (any vaccine can be given with another)	Contraindications and precautions (mild illness is not a contraindication)
<b>Hepatitis A</b> (HepA)  <i>Give IM</i>  Brands may be used interchangeably.	<p>For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people who want to be protected from hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection and lack a specific risk factor.</li> <li>• People who travel or work anywhere EXCEPT the U.S., Western Europe, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and Japan.</li> <li>• People with chronic liver disease; injecting and non-injecting drug users; men who have sex with men; people who receive clotting-factor concentrates; people who work with HAV in experimental lab settings; food handlers when health authorities or private employers determine vaccination to be appropriate.</li> <li>• People who anticipate close personal contact with an international adoptee from a country of high or intermediate endemicity during the first 60 days following the adoptee’s arrival in the U.S.</li> <li>• Adults age 40yrs or younger with recent (within 2 wks) exposure to HAV. For people older than age 40yrs with recent (within 2 wks) exposure to HAV, immune globulin is preferred over HepA vaccine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 2 doses, spaced 6–12m apart.</li> <li>• If dose #2 is delayed, do not repeat dose #1. Just give dose #2.</li> </ul> <div> <p>For Twinrix (hepatitis A and B combination vaccine [GSK]) for patients age 18yrs and older only: give 3 doses on a 0, 1, 6m schedule. There must be at least 4wks between doses #1 and #2, and at least 5m between doses #2 and #3.</p> <p>An alternative schedule can also be used at 0, 7d, 21–30d, and a booster at 12m.</p> </div>	<p><b>Contraindication</b> Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components.</p> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> </ul>
<b>Hepatitis B</b> (HepB)  <i>Give IM</i>  Brands may be used interchangeably.	<p>For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All adults who want to be protected from hepatitis B virus infection and lack a specific risk factor.</li> <li>• Household contacts and sex partners of HBsAg-positive people; injecting drug users; sexually active people not in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship; men who have sex with men; people with HIV; people seeking STD evaluation or treatment; hemodialysis patients and those with renal disease that may result in dialysis; diabetics younger than age 60yrs (diabetics age 60yrs and older may be vaccinated at the clinician’s discretion [see <a href="#">ACIP recommendations</a>]); healthcare personnel and public safety workers who are exposed to blood; clients and staff of institutions for the developmentally disabled; inmates of long-term correctional facilities; certain international travelers; and people with chronic liver disease.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Provide serologic screening for immigrants from endemic areas. If patient is chronically infected, assure appropriate disease management. For sex partners and household contacts of HBsAg-positive people, provide serologic screening and administer initial dose of HepB vaccine at same visit.</p>	<p>Give 3 doses on a 0, 1, 6m schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative timing options for vaccination include 0, 2, 4m; 0, 1, 4m; and 0, 1, 2, 12m (Engerix brand only).</li> <li>• There must be at least 4wks between doses #1 and #2, and at least 8wks between doses #2 and #3. Overall, there must be at least 16wks between doses #1 and #3.</li> <li>• <b>Schedule for those who have fallen behind:</b> If the series is delayed between doses, DO NOT start the series over. Continue from where you left off.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contraindication</b> Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components.</p> <p><b>Precaution</b> Moderate or severe acute illness.</p>
<b>Polio</b> (IPV)  <i>Give IM or SC</i>	<p>For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not routinely recommended for U.S. residents age 18yrs and older.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Adults living in the U.S. who never received or completed a primary series of polio vaccine need not be vaccinated unless they intend to travel to areas where exposure to wild-type virus is likely. Previously vaccinated adults can receive 1 booster dose if traveling to polio endemic areas or to areas where the risk of exposure is high.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to <a href="#">ACIP recommendations</a>* regarding unique situations, schedules, and dosing information.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contraindication</b> Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components.</p> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• Pregnancy.</li> </ul>



# Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization (Age 19 years & older)

(Page 4 of 4)

Vaccine name and route	People for whom vaccination is recommended	Schedule for vaccine administration (any vaccine can be given with another)	Contraindications and precautions (mild illness is not a contraindication)
<b>Human papillomavirus (HPV)</b> (HPV2, Cervarix) (HPV4, Gardasil) <i>Give IM</i>	For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All previously unvaccinated women through age 26yrs and men through age 21yrs.</li> <li>• All previously unvaccinated men through age 26yrs who 1) have sex with men or 2) are immunocompromised as a result of infection (including HIV), disease, or medications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 3 doses on a 0, 2, 6m schedule.</li> <li>• There must be at least 4wks between doses #1 and #2 and at least 12wks between doses #2 and #3. Overall, there must be at least 24wks between doses #1 and #3. If possible, use the same vaccine product for all three doses.</li> </ul>	<b>Contraindication</b> Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components. <b>Precautions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• Pregnancy.</li> </ul>
<b>Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, quadrivalent (MCV4)</b> Menactra, Menveo <i>Give IM</i> <b>Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4)</b> Menomune <i>Give SC</i>	For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with anatomic or functional asplenia or persistent complement component deficiency.</li> <li>• People who travel to or reside in countries in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic (e.g., the “meningitis belt” of Sub-Saharan Africa).</li> <li>• Microbiologists routinely exposed to isolates of <i>N. meningitidis</i>.</li> <li>• First year college students through age 21yrs who live in residence halls; see 5th bullet in the box to the right for details.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 2 initial doses of MCV4 separated by 2m to adults 55yrs and younger with risk factors listed in 1st bullet in column to left or if vaccinating adults with HIV infection in this age group. Give 1 dose of MPSV4 to adults 56yrs and older with risk factors.</li> <li>• Give 1 initial dose to all other adults with risk factors (see 2nd–4th bullets in column to left).</li> <li>• Give booster doses every 5yrs to adults with continuing risk (see the 1st–3rd bullets in column to left for listings of people with possible continuing risk).</li> <li>• MCV4 is preferred over MPSV4 for people age 55yrs and younger; use MPSV4 ONLY if age 56yrs or older or if there is a permanent contraindication/precaution to MCV4.</li> <li>• For first year college students age 19–21yrs living in residence halls, give 1 initial dose if unvaccinated and give booster dose if most recent dose was given when younger than 16yrs.</li> </ul>	<b>Contraindication</b> Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components. <b>Precaution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> </ul>
<b>Td, Tdap</b> (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) <i>Give IM</i> <div> <i>Using tetanus toxoid (TT) instead of Tdap or Td is not recommended.</i> </div>	For people through age 18 years, consult “Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization” at <a href="http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf">www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people who lack written documentation of a primary series consisting of at least 3 doses of tetanus- and diphtheria-toxoid-containing vaccine.</li> <li>• A booster dose of Td or Tdap may be needed for wound management, so consult <a href="#">ACIP recommendations</a>.*</li> <li>• In pregnancy, when indicated, give Td or Tdap in late 2nd or 3rd trimester. Tdap is preferred because protective antibodies to pertussis are provided to the fetus. If not administered during pregnancy, give Tdap in immediate postpartum period.</li> </ul> <b>For Tdap only:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults younger than age 65yrs who have not already received Tdap.</li> <li>• Adults of any age, including adults age 65yrs and older, in contact with infants younger than age 12m (e.g., parents, grandparents, childcare providers) who have not received a dose of Tdap should be prioritized for vaccination.</li> <li>• Healthcare personnel of all ages.</li> <li>• Adults age 65yrs and older without a risk indicator (e.g., not in contact with an infant) may also be vaccinated with Tdap.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For people who are unvaccinated or behind, complete the primary Td series (spaced at 0, 1–2m, 6–12m intervals); substitute a one-time dose of Tdap for one of the doses in the series, preferably the first.</li> <li>• Give Td booster every 10yrs after the primary series has been completed.</li> <li>• Tdap should be given regardless of interval since previous Td.</li> </ul>	<b>Contraindications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine or to any of its components.</li> <li>• For Tdap only, history of encephalopathy not attributable to an identifiable cause, within 7d following DTP/DTaP.</li> </ul> <b>Precautions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate or severe acute illness.</li> <li>• Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6wks following previous dose of tetanus-toxoid-containing vaccine.</li> <li>• For Tdap only, progressive or unstable neurologic disorder, uncontrolled seizures, or progressive neuropathy until a treatment regimen has been established and the condition has stabilized.</li> <li>• History of arthus reaction following a prior dose of tetanus- or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine; defer vaccination until at least 10yrs have elapsed since the last tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine.</li> </ul>

## CDC's "Ask the Experts" team answers your immunization questions



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age 26. The series should be completed regardless of the age of the patient (i.e., even if the patient is older than 26). In certain situations, some clinicians choose to start the 3-dose HPV series in patients who are older than 26 years. This, however, is an off-label use.

### **Will patients who have already had genital warts benefit from receiving Gardasil?**

A history of genital warts or clinically evident genital warts indicates infection with HPV, most often type 6 or 11. However, people with this history might not have been infected with both HPV 6 and 11 or with HPV 16 or 18. Vaccination will provide protection against infection with HPV vaccine types the patient has not already acquired. Gardasil (HPV4) protects against HPV vaccine types 6, 11, 16, and 18; Cervarix (HPV2; GlaxoSmithKline) protects against HPV 16 and 18. Providers should advise their patients/clients that results from clinical trials do not indicate the vaccine will have any therapeutic effect on existing HPV infection or genital warts.

### **If a patient has been sexually active for a number of years, is it still recommended to give HPV vaccine or to complete the HPV vaccine series?**

Yes. You should not withhold HPV vaccine from people who are already sexually active. Ideally, patients should be vaccinated before onset of sexual activity; however, patients who have already been infected with one or more HPV types still get protection from other HPV types in the vaccine that have not been acquired.

### **If a patient's vaccination history indicates she received the third dose of HPV vaccine earlier than the recommended minimum interval of 24 weeks, should she be given a fourth dose?**

Maybe. If the 3-dose series was given with minimum intervals of at least 4 weeks between dose #1 and dose #2 AND at least 12 weeks between dose #2 and dose #3, do not repeat any doses. If the third dose was given at less than 12 weeks from dose #2, repeat dose #3 at least 12 weeks after the invalid dose.

### **Will VFC cover HPV vaccination for males?**

Yes. VFC funding will cover HPV4 (Gardasil) vaccination for VFC-eligible males age 9 through 18 years.

### **If HPV vaccine is given subcutaneously (SC) instead of intramuscularly (IM), does the dose need to be repeated?**

No, the dose does not need to be repeated. Vaccines should always be administered by the route recommended by the manufacturer; however, if a vaccine is inadvertently administered SC instead of IM, or IM instead of SC, ACIP recommends that the dose be counted as valid with two exceptions: Hepatitis B or rabies vaccine administered by a route other than IM should be repeated.

## Looking for the 2012 adult immunization schedule?

Visit

[www.immunize.org/cdc/schedules](http://www.immunize.org/cdc/schedules)

## Hepatitis B vaccine

### **Would you please provide details about the new ACIP recommendations for the use of hepatitis B vaccine in adult diabetic patients?**

In December 2011, CDC published new ACIP recommendations that hepatitis B vaccine be given to adults with diabetes. The vaccine series

is recommended for unvaccinated adults with diabetes age 59 years and younger. At the discretion of the treating clinician, the vaccine may also be administered to unvaccinated adults with diabetes age 60 years and older.

The recommendations were prompted by a number of outbreaks of hepatitis B virus infection in settings that provide assisted blood glucose monitoring for people with diabetes.

Administration of the hepatitis B vaccine series should be completed as soon as feasible after diabetes is diagnosed. No serologic testing or additional hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for adults who received a complete series

of hepatitis B vaccinations at any time in the past.

Hepatitis B vaccine may be administered during healthcare visits scheduled for other purposes, as long as minimum intervals between doses are observed. No maximum interval between doses exists that would make the hepatitis B vaccination series ineffective or that would require restarting the series.

You can read the details of this recommendation and the rationale behind it in *MMWR* at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a4.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a4.htm).

## Tdap vaccine

### **Is it true that ACIP no longer specifies a time interval between administering doses of Td and Tdap to teens and adults?**

In January 2011, CDC issued updated ACIP recommendations ([www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm6001a4](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s_cid=mm6001a4)) on the use of Tdap vaccine. They clearly state that pertussis vaccination, when indicated, should not be delayed and that Tdap should be administered regardless of the interval since the last tetanus- or diphtheria-toxoid-containing vaccine was given. This means that if Td was administered inadvertently when Tdap was indicated, the dose of Tdap can be given on the same day the dose of Td was given.

### **If a teen or adult patient received a dose of Td vaccine 2 years ago, should I wait approximately 8 more years before administering a dose of Tdap to the patient?**

No. ACIP recommends that people age 11 through 64 who have not yet received Tdap receive their one-time Tdap dose now. ACIP specifies no waiting interval between administering Td and Tdap to anyone in this age group. Adults age 65 years and older do not need to delay Tdap vaccination following Td either.

### **If a teen or adult mistakenly received a dose of Td when they should have received Tdap, what is the optimal time to give the missing Tdap dose?**

As soon as possible, even if it is the same day.

(continued on page 11)

### **Vaccinate Adults correction policy**

If you find an error, please notify us immediately by sending an email message to [admin@immunize.org](mailto:admin@immunize.org). We publish notification of significant errors in our email announcement service, *IAC Express*. Be sure you're signed up for this service. To subscribe, visit [www.immunize.org/subscribe](http://www.immunize.org/subscribe).

**Is there any reason not to administer Tdap vaccine to adults age 65 and older who want the vaccine but are not in contact with an infant? It seems like it would be a good idea to vaccinate them to protect them, their family, and their community from pertussis.**

No medical reason exists for withholding Tdap from adults age 65 and older unless they have a medical contraindication.

**We intend to start vaccinating family contacts of pregnant women with Tdap to protect the newborn. Can you tell me how long it takes for the Tdap vaccine to provide protection?**

To best protect infants, CDC recommends that teens and adults who haven't been vaccinated receive Tdap 2 weeks or more before having contact with an infant.

## Shingles vaccine

**When people are in their 80s, is it still recommended for them to get the shingles vaccine? I've heard it doesn't work as well in the elderly.**

ACIP recommends the vaccine for everyone age 60 and older, even though the vaccine's efficacy decreases with the recipient's age. The clinical trials found approximately an 18% efficacy rate in people age 80 and older as compared with 64% efficacy in people age 60 through 69 years (see pages 13–14 at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5705.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5705.pdf)). In general, with increasing age at vaccination, the vaccine was more effective in reducing the severity of zoster and post-herpetic neuralgia than in reducing the occurrence of zoster itself.

## Hib vaccine

**Occasionally we have asplenic adult patients who want to get the Hib vaccine. We know it's given only to infants and young children, but what about using it in this situation?**

Although the vaccine is not routinely recommended for adults, CDC states in the *General Recommendations on Immunization*: “No efficacy data are available on which to base a recommendation for use of Hib vaccine for older children and adults with the chronic conditions that are associated with an increased risk for Hib disease. Administering 1 dose of Hib vaccine to these patients who have not previously received Hib vaccine is not contraindicated.” For additional information, consult page 22 of the General Recommendations, published January 2011, at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6002.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6002.pdf).

## General vaccine questions

**ACIP and CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Guide say that refrigerated vaccines should be stored between 35°–46°F, but some vaccine package inserts list 36°–46°F as the proper range. Should I use 35°F or 36°F as the low boundary of the range?**

On the Celsius scale, the appropriate storage range

for refrigerated vaccines is 2°C–8°C. Because 2°C converts to 35.6°F, some manufacturers have rounded the Fahrenheit reading to 36°F. However, 35°F is still considered acceptable for storage of any refrigerated vaccine. Providers should make an effort to store vaccines toward the midpoint of the range (approximately 40°F or 5°C) rather than at either end of the scale.

**What should I do if my thermometer indicates my refrigerated vaccine has been stored between 32°–34°F? Since the vaccine wasn't “frozen,” will it be OK to use? And what about people who received the vaccine before we discovered the temperature excursion—will we need to revaccinate them?**

This is a complex question that requires case-by-case review. First, while you're assessing the situation, return the vaccine to proper storage temperatures and mark it “Do Not Use.” Then, contact your state or local immunization program or the appropriate vaccine manufacturer(s) to discuss the potential usability of the vaccine. They will need to consider several variables related to vaccine storage conditions. For example, their guidance will be affected by the accuracy of the thermometer, whether the thermometer probe was in a liquid or was reading the temperature of the air, the type of vaccine involved, the length of time of the excursion, etc.

In general, if it can be reliably determined that the vaccine in question was not stored below 32°F and the manufacturer's stability data concurs, most immunization programs and vaccine manufacturers would not recommend wasting the vaccine or revaccinating recipients.

**Does the federal law that requires providing patients with VISs apply when administering influenza vaccine to employees and volunteers in hospitals or other workplaces?**

Yes. Employees and volunteers are considered

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patients, and you need to provide them with a VIS.

If a vaccine is covered under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act—and almost all vaccines routinely administered to adults are (with the exception of PPSV and zoster)—it is mandatory under federal law to give the VIS for that vaccine to the vaccinee. Therefore, when you give influenza vaccine to employees and staff, you are required by law to provide them with a VIS.

You can find more details about the requirements for using VISs at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-Instructions.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-Instructions.pdf).

For VISs in multiple languages, go to [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis).

**If you place a needle on a pre-filled syringe and then don't administer the vaccine, how long can you store the pre-filled syringe with the needle attached?**

In general, a vaccine should not be prepared until the provider is ready to administer it to a patient. This is because once the syringe cap is removed or a needle is attached, the sterile seal is broken. However, if a sterile seal has been broken, staff should be sure to maintain the syringe at the appropriate temperature and either use it or discard it at the end of the clinic day.

CDC's Pink Book has a new chapter about vaccine storage and handling at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/vac-storage.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/vac-storage.pdf).

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