

Varicella Vaccine

Vaccine Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand: Varivax® • Live attenuated virus • Contains gelatin, neomycin; See package insert 	
Dose & Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose: 0.5 mL Route: SC or IM • See package insert 	
Indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinate healthy people who do not have evidence of immunity • Healthcare workers • Household contacts of people who are immunocompromised • May use as post-exposure prophylaxis. Ideally, the vaccine should be given within 3-5 days after exposure. Even if >5 days, still offer vaccine. 	
Administration Schedule	Dose	Recommended Interval
	#1	
	#2	4 to 8 weeks later
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction to prior dose or vaccine component • Pregnancy, or possibility of pregnancy within one month • Moderate or severe acute illness • Immune suppression from disease or therapies • Blood dyscrasia, leukemia, lymphoma, or other malignant neoplasm affecting the bone marrow or lymphatic system 	

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(Continued)

Special Considerations

- Active, untreated tuberculosis, decision to delay depends on severity of symptoms and etiology of disease
- HIV-infected children ≥ 12 months old with CD4+ T-lymphocyte percentages $\geq 15\%$ and people > 8 years old with CD4+ T-lymphocyte counts ≥ 200 cells/ μL should get vaccinated with varicella vaccine (2 doses at least 3 months apart); should not use ProQuad
- Adolescents and adults with CD4+ T-lymphocyte counts of 200 cells/microliter or more can also receive varicella vaccine (2 doses, at least 3 months apart).
- If varicella vaccine and another live vaccine are both needed and not administered on the same day, space them at least 4 weeks apart
- Recommended that smallpox vaccine and varicella vaccine not be given at the same time because varicella vaccine can cause lesions that can be confused with smallpox adverse reactions
- Manufacturer recommends caution should be exercised if administered to a nursing woman; per CDC there is no need to delay postpartum vaccination because of breastfeeding
- Manufacturer recommends that salicylates be avoided for 6 weeks after receiving varicella vaccine due to theoretical risk of Reye syndrome.
- DO NOT restart series, no matter how long since the 1st dose
- Apply Tuberculin skin test (TST or PPD) either before/ simultaneously with vaccination or delay at least 1 month after the administration of the live-virus vaccine.
- Note: Discard if not used within 30 minutes after reconstitution
- See Storage and Handling Section

VIS: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/varicella.html>

Standing orders: www.health.mil/standingorders

Pregnancy monitoring: 1-877-888-4231 (Merck); also notify DHA-IHD

Additional education may be found at www.health.mil/chickenpox