

# Guide to Contraindications and Precautions<sup>1</sup> to Commonly Used Vaccines\* (Page 1 of 2)

Vaccine	Contraindications	Precautions <sup>1</sup>
<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> <li>Infant weighing less than 2000 grams (4 lbs, 6.4 oz)<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Rotavirus (RV5 [RotaTeq], RV1 [Rotarix])</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>Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>Altered immunocompetence other than SCID</li> <li>History of intussusception</li> <li>Chronic gastrointestinal disease<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Spina bifida or bladder exstrophy<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)</b>  <b>Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)</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>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 or DTaP (for DTaP); or of previous dose of DTP, DTaP, or Tdap (for Tdap)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> <li>Guillain-Barré syndrome (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 toxoid-containing vaccine; defer vaccination until at least 10 years have elapsed since the last tetanus-toxoid containing vaccine</li> <li>Progressive or unstable neurologic disorder (including infantile spasms for DTaP), uncontrolled seizures, or progressive encephalopathy; defer vaccination with DTaP or Tdap until a treatment regimen has been established and the condition has stabilized</li> </ul> <p><b>For DTaP only:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temperature of 105° F or higher (40.5° C or higher) within 48 hours after vaccination with a previous dose of DTP/DTaP</li> <li>Collapse or shock-like state (i.e., hypotonic hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP</li> <li>Seizure within 3 days after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP</li> <li>Persistent, inconsolable crying lasting 3 or more hours within 48 hours after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP</li> </ul>
<b>Tetanus, diphtheria (DT, 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> </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 toxoid-containing vaccine; defer vaccination until at least 10 years have elapsed since the last tetanus-toxoid containing vaccine</li> </ul>
<b>Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)</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>Age younger than 6 weeks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever</li> </ul>
<b>Inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV)</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>Pneumococcal (PCV or PPSV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For PCV13, severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose (of PCV7, PCV13, or any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine) or to a vaccine component (of PCV7, PCV13, or any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine)</li> <li>For PPSV, 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>Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)<sup>4</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>Pregnancy</li> <li>Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., from hematologic and solid tumors; receiving chemotherapy; congenital immunodeficiency; or long-term immunosuppressive therapy<sup>5</sup>; or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised)<sup>6</sup></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>7</sup></li> <li>History of thrombocytopenia or thrombocytopenic purpura</li> <li>Need for tuberculin skin testing<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>

Vaccine	Contraindications	Precautions <sup>1</sup>
<b>Varicella (Var)<sup>4</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, receiving chemotherapy, congenital immunodeficiency, or long-term immunosuppressive therapy<sup>5</sup> or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised)<sup>6</sup></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>7</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>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>Influenza, injectable trivalent (TIV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose 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 GBS within 6 weeks of previous influenza vaccine</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza, live attenuated (LAIV)<sup>4</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component, including egg protein</li> <li>Possible reactive airways disease in a child age 2 through 4 years (e.g., history of recurrent wheezing or a recent wheezing episode)</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> <li>Immunosuppression</li> <li>Certain chronic medical conditions<sup>9</sup></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 weeks of previous influenza vaccine</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Human papillomavirus (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>Meningococcal, conjugate (MCV4)</b> <b>Meningococcal, 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>Zoster (Zos)</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>Substantial suppression of cellular immunity</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; delay resumption of these antiviral drugs for 14 days after vaccination.</li> </ul>

**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. Whether and when to administer DTaP to children with proven or suspected underlying neurologic disorders should be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- Hepatitis B vaccination should be deferred for preterm infants and infants weighing less than 2000 g if the mother is documented to be hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-negative at the time of the infant's birth. Vaccination can commence at chronological age 1 month or at hospital discharge. For infants born to women who are HBsAg-positive, hepatitis B immunoglobulin and hepatitis B vaccine should be administered within 12 hours of birth, regardless of weight.
- For details, see CDC. "Prevention of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis among Infants and Children: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)." *MMWR* 2009;58(No. RR-2) at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm).
- 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.
- HIV-infected children may receive varicella and measles vaccine if CD4+ T-lymphocyte count is >15%. (Source: Adapted from American Academy of Pediatrics. *Passive Immunization*. In: Pickering LK, ed. *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2009.)
- 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.
- 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](http://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 (ACIP)." *MMWR* 2011; 60(No. RR-2), p. 40-41.