

Varicella Vaccine

Vaccine Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand: Varivax® • Live attenuated virus • Contains gelatin, neomycin (see package insert) • Also available as combined MMR and varicella (ProQuad) for routine use for children during the 4-6year dose of MMR and Varicella 	
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"> • All children 12 months of age and older, including all adolescents without evidence of immunity should receive two doses • 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 Age
	#1	12 to 15 months
	#2	4 to 6 years
Minimum Intervals	Dose	Minimum Interval
	#1	Must be at least 12 months of age
	#2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 1-12 years: 3 months after dose #1 • Ages 13 years and older: 4 weeks after dose #1
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious allergic reaction to prior dose or vaccine component • Moderate or severe acute illness • Pregnancy, or possibility of pregnancy within one month • Immune suppression (see ACIP recommendations). • Active, untreated tuberculosis • Can give to people with isolated humoral immune deficiency, but NOT to those with cellular immune deficiency; immunology consultation recommended • Recent receipt of blood product (see CDC guidelines) • For use in children taking salicylates, consult ACIP recommendations 	

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Varicella Vaccine (Continued)

Special Considerations

- If other live injected vaccines are needed and not administered on the same day, space them at least 4 weeks apart
- 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
- 4% to 6% of recipients (1% to 2% after 2nd dose) get a “varicella-like” rash within 3 weeks. While rare, individuals may be at risk if they have no immunity or are at high risk for complications (HIV, etc.).
- Avoid use of salicylates (aspirin) for 6 weeks following administration due to risk for Reye syndrome
- DO NOT restart series, no matter how long since 1st dose
- Note: Discard if not used within 30 minutes after reconstitution; See Storage and Handling Section
- ProQuad® (MMRV) may be used when both MMR and varicella vaccines are indicated for children 12 months through 12 years of age. Note: Unless the parent or caregiver expresses a preference for MMRV vaccine, separate MMR and varicella vaccines should be administered for the first dose for children 12 through 47 months of age.

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