

# Guide to Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines in Adults

Vaccine	Contraindications	Precautions <sup>1</sup>
<b>Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component</li> <li>Encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, and prolonged seizures) not attributable to another identifiable cause within 7 days of administration of 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>Progressive or unstable neurological disorder, uncontrolled seizures or progressive encephalopathy until a treatment regimen has been established and the condition has stabilized</li> <li>History of arthus-type hypersensitivity reactions following 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>Tetanus, diphtheria (Td)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine 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> </ul>
<b>Human papilloma-virus (HPV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine 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>Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> <li>Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., hematologic and solid tumors; receiving chemotherapy; congenital immunodeficiency; long-term immunosuppressive therapy<sup>2</sup>; or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised)</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; see Table 4 of "General Recommendations on Immunization"<sup>3</sup>)</li> <li>History of thrombocytopenia or thrombocytopenic purpura</li> </ul>
<b>Varicella (Var)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine 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>Recent (within 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product; see Table 4 of ACIP's "General Recommendations on Immunization"<sup>3</sup>)</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza, injectable trivalent (TIV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine 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>History of GBS within 6 wks of previous TIV</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza, live attenuated (LAIV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine dose or to a vaccine component</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> <li>Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., hematologic and solid tumors; receiving chemotherapy; congenital immunodeficiency; long-term immunosuppressive therapy<sup>2</sup>; or patients with HIV infection who are severely immunocompromised)</li> <li>Certain chronic medical conditions<sup>3</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 wks of previous influenza vaccination</li> </ul>
<b>Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine 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 vaccine 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 vaccine 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)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine 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>History of GBS (if not at high risk for meningococcal disease)</li> </ul>
<b>Meningococcal, polysaccharide (MPSV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous vaccine 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 vaccine dose or to a vaccine component</li> <li>Primary cellular or acquired immunodeficiency (see ACIP recommendations for details<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> </ul>

1. 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.

2. Substantially immunosuppressive steroid dose is considered to be 2 weeks or more of daily receipt of 20 mg or more (or 2 mg/kg body weight or more) of prednisone or equivalent.

3. For details of recommendations of CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm)

Adapted from Table 5, "Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines," found in "General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices." MMWR 2006; 55(No. RR-15).

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[www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3072.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3072.pdf) • Item #P3072 (10/08)