## Varicella Vaccine

| Vaccine Description | • Brand: Varivax®  
• Live attenuated virus  
• Contains gelatin, neomycin; See package insert |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Dose & Route        | • Dose: 0.5 mL  Route: SC or IM  
• See package insert |
| Indications         | • 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    | • 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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### 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 ≥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

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**VIS:** [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/varicella.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/varicella.html)

**Standing orders:** [www.health.mil/standingorders](http://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](http://www.health.mil/chickenpox)