## Varicella Vaccine

### Vaccine Description
- **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 4-6 year dose of MMR and Varicella**

### Dose & Route
- **Dose:** 0.5 mL
- **Route:** SC or IM
- **See package insert**

### Indications
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Recommended Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>12 to 15 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>4 to 6 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Minimum Intervals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Minimum Interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Must be at least 12 months of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>- Ages 1-12 years: 3 months after dose #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Ages 13 years and older: 4 weeks after dose #1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contraindications
- 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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### 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](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)