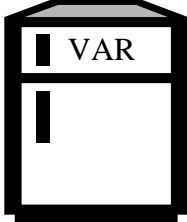


# Varicella Vaccine (Var)

<p><b>Indications for Use and Schedule</b></p> <p><b><u>Routine Schedule:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 2 dose series given at/after age 12 months and 4-6 years</li> <li>· Catch up all persons without evidence of immunity* to chickenpox disease</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Make sure minimum age and minimum intervals are met:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Minimum age for dose 1 is 12 months of age</li> <li>· Minimum intervals between doses vary by age:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children 12 mo-12 yr: 3 months between dose 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Persons 13 yr &amp; older: 4 weeks between dose 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>“Live/Live Vaccine Rule”:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Var, MMR and/or LAIV must be given on the same day <b>or</b> separated by 28 days; If not, vaccine(s) given 2<sup>nd</sup> must be repeated in 28 days</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vaccine Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Subcutaneous (SC) injection in the upper arm or the outer aspect of the thigh</li> <li>· 5/8 inch needle; 23-25 gauge (all ages)</li> <li>· Can be given with other vaccines, at the same visit (Use separate sites; space at least 1 inch apart)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Storage and Handling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Store in the freezer only -58°F to +5°F (-50°C to -15°C)</li> <li>· Keep in the original box</li> <li>· Protect from light</li> <li>· Reconstitute using the Merck diluent only</li> <li>· Administer within 30 min of reconstituting</li> </ul> 

**\*EVIDENCE OF IMMUNITY**

- Documentation of age-appropriate vaccination
  - Preschool-aged children 12 mo of age or older: one dose
  - School-aged children, adolescents and adults: two doses
- Lab evidence of immunity or lab confirmation of disease
- A healthcare provider’s (nurse, NP, physician, PA):
  - Diagnosis of varicella disease or
  - Verification of history of typical varicella disease
- History of herpes zoster (shingles) based on healthcare provider diagnosis
- Born in the U.S. before 1980 (Unless pregnant or Health Care Personnel)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- An anaphylactic reaction to a prior dose of a varicella-containing vaccine
- An anaphylactic reaction to a component of varicella vaccine including gelatin or neomycin
- Pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant in the next 4 weeks (inform girls/women in child-bearing years)
- Persons with immunosuppression due to leukemia, lymphoma, generalized malignancy, immune deficiency disease or immunosuppressive therapy (i.e. chemotherapy, certain medications)

**PRECAUTIONS**

- Moderate to severe acute illness
  - Receipt of blood or a blood product within the last year (wait time varies by the type of blood/product administered)
- For further information refer to: General Recommendations on Immunization January 28, 2011 (page 39)

**FURTHER POINTS**

- Varicella-containing vaccines will be shipped directly from Merck with frozen gel packs that are good for up to 72 hours
- Do not transport varicella-containing vaccines on dry ice (-109°F); a type of portable freezer unit must be used
- To best protect susceptible pregnant women and persons with immunosuppression, vaccine should be offered to all household members and close contacts who do not have evidence of immunity\* and have no contraindication to vaccination
- Breastfeeding is not a contraindication to varicella vaccination in either the mom or the infant
- Varicella Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), is available at <http://www.immunize.org/vis/>

For additional information, refer to VFC Program Resolutions or “Prevention of Varicella, Recommendations of the ACIP” at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs>