Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Vaccines for Children and Teens

PATIENT NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____
month day year

For parents/guardians: The following questions will help us determine which vaccines your child may be given today. If you answer "yes" to any question, it does not necessarily mean your child should not be vaccinated. It just means additional questions must be asked. If a question is not clear, please ask your healthcare provider to explain it.

	yes	no	don't know
1. Is the child sick today?	☐	☐	☐
2. Does the child have allergies to medications, food, a vaccine component, or latex?	☐	☐	☐
3. Has the child had a serious reaction to a vaccine in the past?	☐	☐	☐
4. Has the child had a health problem with lung, heart, kidney or metabolic disease (e.g., diabetes), asthma, or a blood disorder? Is he/she on long-term aspirin therapy?	☐	☐	☐
5. If the child to be vaccinated is 2 through 4 years of age, has a healthcare provider told you that the child had wheezing or asthma in the past 12 months?	☐	☐	☐
6. If your child is a baby, have you ever been told he or she has had intussusception?	☐	☐	☐
7. Has the child, a sibling, or a parent had a seizure; has the child had brain or other nervous system problems?	☐	☐	☐
8. Does the child have cancer, leukemia, HIV/AIDS, or any other immune system problem?	☐	☐	☐
9. In the past 3 months, has the child taken medications that affect the immune system such as prednisone, other steroids, or anticancer drugs; drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, or psoriasis; or had radiation treatments?	☐	☐	☐
10. In the past year, has the child received a transfusion of blood or blood products, or been given immune (gamma) globulin or an antiviral drug?	☐	☐	☐
11. Is the child/teen pregnant or is there a chance she could become pregnant during the next month?	☐	☐	☐
12. Has the child received vaccinations in the past 4 weeks?	☐	☐	☐

FORM COMPLETED BY _____ DATE _____

FORM REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____

Did you bring your immunization record card with you? **yes** ☐ **no** ☐

It is important to have a personal record of your child's vaccinations. If you don't have one, ask the child's healthcare provider to give you one with all your child's vaccinations on it. Keep it in a safe place and bring it with you every time you seek medical care for your child. Your child will need this document to enter day care or school, for employment, or for international travel.

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Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Saint Paul, Minnesota • 651-647-9009 • www.immunize.org • www.vaccineinformation.org

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4060.pdf • Item #P4060 (2/16)

Information for Healthcare Professionals about the Screening Checklist for Contraindications (Children and Teens)

Are you interested in knowing why we included a certain question on the screening checklist? If so, read the information below. If you want to find out even more, consult the references listed at the end.

1. **Is the child sick today?** *[all vaccines]*

   There is no evidence that acute illness reduces vaccine efficacy or increases vaccine adverse events (1, 2). However, as a precaution with moderate or severe acute illness, all vaccines should be delayed until the illness has improved. Mild illnesses (such as otitis media, upper respiratory infections, and diarrhea) are NOT contraindications to vaccination. Do not withhold vaccination if a person is taking antibiotics.

2. **Does the child have allergies to medications, food, a vaccine component, or latex?** *[all vaccines]*

   An anaphylactic reaction to latex is a contraindication to vaccines that contain latex as a component or as part of the packaging (e.g., vial stoppers, prefilled syringe plungers, prefilled syringe caps). If a person has anaphylaxis after eating gelatin, do not administer vaccines containing gelatin. A local reaction to a prior vaccine dose or vaccine component, including latex, is not a contraindication to a subsequent dose or vaccine containing that component. For information on vaccines supplied in vials or syringes containing latex, see reference 3; for an extensive list of vaccine components, see reference 4. An egg-free recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV3) may be used in people age 18 years and older with egg allergy of any severity who have no other contraindications. Children and teens younger than age 18 years who have experienced a serious systemic or anaphylactic reaction (e.g., hives, swelling of the lips or tongue, acute respiratory distress, or collapse) after eating eggs can usually be vaccinated with inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV); consult ACIP recommendations (see reference 4).

3. **Has the child had a serious reaction to a vaccine in the past?** *[all vaccines]*

   History of anaphylactic reaction (see question 2) to a previous dose of vaccine or vaccine component is a contraindication for subsequent doses (1). History of encephalopathy within 7 days following DTP/DTaP is a contraindication for further doses of pertussis-containing vaccine. Precautions to DTaP (not Tdap) include the following: (a) seizure within 3 days of a dose, (b) pale or limp episode or collapse within 48 hours of a dose, (c) continuous crying for 3 or more hours within 48 hours of a dose, and (d) fever of 105°F (40°C) within 48 hours of a previous dose. There are other adverse events that might have occurred following vaccination that constitute contraindications or precautions to future doses. Under normal circumstances, vaccines are deferred when a precaution is present. However, situations may arise when the benefit outweighs the risk (e.g., during a community pertussis outbreak).

4. **Has the child had a health problem with lung, heart, kidney, or metabolic disease (e.g., diabetes), asthma, or a blood disorder? Is he/she on long-term aspirin therapy?** *[LAIV]*

   The safety of LAIV in children and teens with lung, heart, kidney, or metabolic disease (e.g., diabetes), or a blood disorder has not been established. These conditions, including asthma in children ages 5 years and older, should be considered precautions for the use of LAIV. Children on long-term aspirin therapy should not be given LAIV; instead, they should be given IIV.

5. **If the child to be vaccinated is 2 through 4 years of age, has a healthcare provider told you that the child had wheezing or asthma in the past 12 months?** *[LAIV]*

   Children ages 2 through 4 years who have had a wheezing episode within the past 12 months should not be given LAIV. Instead, these children should be given IIV.

6. **If your child is a baby, have you ever been told that he or she has had intussusception?** *[Rotavirus]*

   Infants who have a history of intussusception (i.e., the telescoping of one portion of the intestine into another) should not be given rotavirus vaccine.

7. **Has the child, a sibling, or a parent had a seizure; has the child had brain or other nervous system problem?** *[DTaP, Td, Tdap, IIV, LAIV, MMRV]*

   DTaP and Tdap are contraindicated in children who have a history of encephalopathy within 7 days following DTP/DTaP. An unstable progressive neurologic problem is a precaution to the use of DTaP and Tdap. For children with stable neurologic disorders (including seizures) unrelated to vaccination, or for children with a family history of seizures, vaccinate as usual (exception: children with a personal or family [i.e., parent or sibling] history of seizures generally should not be vaccinated with MMRV; they should receive separate MMR and VAR vaccines). A history of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a consideration with the following: 1) Td/Tdap: if GBS has occurred within 6 weeks of a tetanus-containing vaccine and decision is made to continue vaccination, give age-appropriate Tdap instead of Td if no history of prior Tdap, to improve pertussis protection; 2) Influenza vaccine (IIV or LAIV): if GBS has occurred within 6 weeks of a prior influenza vaccination, vaccinate with IIV if at high risk for severe influenza complications.

8. **Does the child have cancer, leukemia, HIV/AIDS, or any other immune system problem?** *[LAIV, MMR, MMRV, RV, VAR]*

   Live virus vaccines (e.g., MMR, MMRV, varicella, rotavirus, and the intranasal live, attenuated influenza vaccine [LAIV]) are usually contraindicated in immunocompromised children. However, there are exceptions. For example, MMR is recommended for asymptomatic HIV-infected children who do not have evidence of severe immunosuppression. Likewise, varicella vaccine should be considered for HIV-infected children with age-specific CD4+ T-lymphocyte percentage at 15% or greater and may be considered for children age 8 years and older with CD4+ T-lymphocyte counts of greater than or equal to 200 cells/μL. Immunosuppressed children should not receive LAIV. Infants who have been diagnosed with severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) should not be given a live virus vaccine, including rotavirus (RV) vaccine. Other forms of immunosuppression are a precaution, not a contraindication, to rotavirus vaccine. For details, consult the ACIP recommendations (1, 6, 7, 8).

9. **In the past 3 months, has the child taken medications that affect the immune system such as prednisone, other steroids, or anticancer drugs; drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, or psoriasis; or had radiation treatments?** *[LAIV, MMR, MMRV, VAR]*

   Live virus vaccines (e.g., LAIV, MMR, VAR, ZOS) should be postponed until after chemotherapy or long-term high-dose steroid therapy has ended. For details and length of time to postpone, consult the ACIP statement (1). Some immune mediator and immune modulator drugs (especially the antitumor-necrosis factor agents adalimumab, infliximab, and etanercept) may be immunosuppressive. The use of live vaccines should be avoided in persons taking these drugs (MMWR 2011;60 [RR2]:23). To find specific vaccination schedules for stem cell transplant (bone marrow transplant) patients, see reference 9. LAIV can be given only to healthy non-pregnant people ages 2 through 49 years.

10. **In the past year, has the child received a transfusion of blood or blood products, or been given immune (gamma) globulin or an antiviral drug?** *[LAIV, MMR, MMRV, VAR]*

    Certain live virus vaccines (e.g., LAIV, MMR, MMRV, varicella) may need to be deferred, depending on several variables. Consult the most current ACIP recommendations or the current Red Book for the most current information on intervals between antiviral drugs, immune globulin or blood product administration and live virus vaccines (1, 2).

11. **Is the child/teen pregnant or is there a chance she could become pregnant during the next month?** *[LAIV, MMR, MMRV, VAR]*

    Live virus vaccines (e.g., MMR, MMRV, varicella, LAIV) are contraindicated one month before and during pregnancy because of the theoretical risk of virus transmission to the fetus (1, 2). Sexually active young women who receive a live virus vaccine should be instructed to practice careful contraception for one month following receipt of the vaccine (7, 10). On theoretical grounds, inactivated poliovirus vaccine should not be given during pregnancy; however, it may be given if risk of exposure is imminent (e.g., travel to endemic areas) and immediate protection is needed. Use of Td or Tdap is not contraindicated in pregnancy. At the provider's discretion, either vaccine may be administered during the 2nd or 3rd trimester (5, 11)

12. **Has the child received vaccinations in the past 4 weeks?** *[LAIV, MMR, MMRV, VAR, yellow fever]*

    Children who were given either LAIV or an injectable live virus vaccine (e.g., MMR, MMRV, varicella, yellow fever) should wait 28 days before receiving another vaccination of this type. Inactivated vaccines may be given at the same time or at any spacing interval.

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