



Varicella Zoster Vaccine Acceptance/Declination Form

Occupational exposure to Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) puts individuals at risk for varicella zoster infection (chickenpox) and recurrent infection with herpes zoster (shingles). Varicella infection causes symptoms of fever, rash, and malaise. Latent VZV may reactivate and cause recurrent disease (Herpes Zoster/Shingles) with painful skin lesions. Complications of varicella infection may include bacterial infection of skin lesions, pneumonia, meningitis and encephalitis. Rare complications include aseptic meningitis, transverse myelitis, Guillain-Barr syndrome, thrombocytopenia, hemorrhagic varicella, purpura fulminans, glomerulonephritis, myocarditis, arthritis, orchitis, uveitis, iritis, and hepatitis. The risk of complications from varicella varies with age and occurs much more frequently in persons older than 15 years of age and infants younger than 1 year of age. Immunocompromised persons have a high risk of disseminated disease and multiple organ involvement. Primary maternal varicella infection in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy is occasionally associated with a variety of congenital abnormalities but the risk appears to be very low (less than 2%). Pregnant women with the onset of maternal varicella from 5 days before to 2 days after delivery may result in overwhelming infection of the neonate and death. Complications of recurrent infection (Herpes Zoster/Shingles) include postherpetic neuralgia, ocular nerve and other organ involvement, cranial nerve palsy and contralateral hemiplegia, and visual impairment.

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) has reviewed the use of VZV and decided that individuals working with the virus must be offered the Varicella vaccine. This vaccine may not provide full protection for all individuals. Varicella vaccination is recommended unless: 1) documentation of prior varicella vaccination (2 doses, 4 weeks apart); 2) evidence of immunity (documented lab report or medical diagnosis; US birth prior to 1980 except for health-care providers, pregnant women and immunocompromised individual); or 3) medical evaluation identifies that vaccination is contraindicated.

The varicella vaccination may be obtained from the UCSD Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine (COEM) at no cost to you. Contact the EHS Occupational Health Nurse for an authorization form if you are requesting vaccination (858-534-8225).

Please review the [Vaccine Information Statement: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-varicella.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-varicella.pdf) (or see page 2-3), then choose one of the following options:

- I certify that I have been offered and will participate in the Varicella vaccine program. I understand that I must request an appointment for the vaccination by contacting UCSD Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (COEM).
- I understand that due to my occupational exposure to aerosol transmissible diseases, I may be at risk of acquiring infection with varicella zoster virus (chickenpox). I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated against this disease or pathogen at no charge to me. However, I decline this vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring chickenpox, a serious disease. If in the future I continue to have occupational exposure to aerosol transmissible diseases and want to be vaccinated, I can receive the vaccination at no charge to me.

List date(s) of prior varicella vaccination if applicable: _____

Provide documentation to the EHS Occupational Health Nurse at Fax# 858-534-7561 or mail code 0091.

Employee Name (print) _____ Phone#: _____

UCSD Employee ID#: _____ Email address _____

Dept Name: _____ Dept Recharge Index#: _____
(required for tracking purposes only)

Principal Investigator you work for _____

Participant Status (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> UCSD Faculty | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting Scientist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UCSD Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UCSD Registered Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-registered Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UCSD-Paid Undergraduate Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Paid Undergraduate Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UCSD-Paid Graduate Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Paid Graduate Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Senate UCSD Academic Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify if UCSD-paid assignment or not): |

Signature of Employee

Date signed

RETURN FORM TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSE, Fax #858-534-7561 or mail code 0091.

CHICKENPOX VACCINE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis.

1 Why get vaccinated?

Chickenpox (also called varicella) is a common childhood disease. It is usually mild, but it can be serious, especially in young infants and adults.

- It causes a rash, itching, fever, and tiredness.
- It can lead to severe skin infection, scars, pneumonia, brain damage, or death.
- The chickenpox virus can be spread from person to person through the air, or by contact with fluid from chickenpox blisters.
- A person who has had chickenpox can get a painful rash called shingles years later.
- Before the vaccine, about 11,000 people were hospitalized for chickenpox each year in the United States.
- Before the vaccine, about 100 people died each year as a result of chickenpox in the United States.

Chickenpox vaccine can prevent chickenpox.

Most people who get chickenpox vaccine will not get chickenpox. But if someone who has been vaccinated does get chickenpox, it is usually very mild. They will have fewer blisters, are less likely to have a fever, and will recover faster.

2 Who should get chickenpox vaccine and when?

Routine

Children who have never had chickenpox should get 2 doses of chickenpox vaccine at these ages:

1st Dose: 12-15 months of age

2nd Dose: 4-6 years of age (may be given earlier, if at least 3 months after the 1st dose)

People 13 years of age and older (who have never had chickenpox or received chickenpox vaccine) should get two doses at least 28 days apart.

Chickenpox

3/13/08

Catch-Up

Anyone who is not fully vaccinated, and never had chickenpox, should receive one or two doses of chickenpox vaccine. The timing of these doses depends on the person's age. Ask your provider.

Chickenpox vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

Note: A "combination" vaccine called **MMRV**, which contains both chickenpox and MMR vaccines, may be given instead of the two individual vaccines to people 12 years of age and younger.

3 Some people should not get chickenpox vaccine or should wait

- People should not get chickenpox vaccine if they have ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a previous dose of chickenpox vaccine or to gelatin or the antibiotic neomycin.
- People who are moderately or severely ill at the time the shot is scheduled should usually wait until they recover before getting chickenpox vaccine.
- Pregnant women should wait to get chickenpox vaccine until after they have given birth. Women should not get pregnant for 1 month after getting chickenpox vaccine.
- Some people should check with their doctor about whether they should get chickenpox vaccine, including anyone who:
 - Has HIV/AIDS or another disease that affects the immune system
 - Is being treated with drugs that affect the immune system, such as steroids, for 2 weeks or longer
 - Has any kind of cancer
 - Is getting cancer treatment with radiation or drugs
- People who recently had a transfusion or were given other blood products should ask their doctor when they may get chickenpox vaccine.

Ask your provider for more information.

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What are the risks from chickenpox vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of chickenpox vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

Getting chickenpox vaccine is much safer than getting chickenpox disease. Most people who get chickenpox vaccine do not have any problems with it. Reactions are usually more likely after the first dose than after the second.

Mild Problems

- Soreness or swelling where the shot was given (about 1 out of 5 children and up to 1 out of 3 adolescents and adults)
- Fever (1 person out of 10, or less)
- Mild rash, up to a month after vaccination (1 person out of 25). It is possible for these people to infect other members of their household, but this is extremely rare.

Moderate Problems

- Seizure (jerking or staring) caused by fever (very rare).

Severe Problems

- Pneumonia (very rare)

Other serious problems, including severe brain reactions and low blood count, have been reported after chickenpox vaccination. These happen so rarely experts cannot tell whether they are caused by the vaccine or not. If they are, it is extremely rare.

Note: The first dose of **MMRV** vaccine has been associated with rash and higher rates of fever than MMR and varicella vaccines given separately. Rash has been reported in about 1 person in 20 and fever in about 1 person in 5. Seizures caused by a fever are also reported more often after MMRV. These usually occur 5-12 days after the first dose.

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What if there is a moderate or severe reaction?

What should I look for?

- Any unusual condition, such as a high fever, weakness, or behavior changes. Signs of a serious

allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do?

- **Call** a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- **Tell** your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- **Ask** your provider to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form.

Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling **1-800-822-7967**.

VAERS does not provide medical advice.

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The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

A federal program has been created to help people who may have been harmed by a vaccine.

For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call **1-800-338-2382** or visit their website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

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How can I learn more?

- Ask your provider. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)**
 - Visit CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
Varicella Vaccine (3/13/08) 42 U.S.C. §300aa-26