

Contraindications for Vaccination

Contraindications or precautions for vaccinations are situations when vaccines **should not be given**. They may be temporary or permanent. If a contraindication is temporary, the vaccine can be given when the situation has changed.

The most common contraindication situations are:

- Individuals with a history of an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine or to a component of the vaccine > usually permanent.
- Individuals with immunodeficiency and individuals who have current immunosuppressive therapy: not live attenuated vaccines. Inactivated vaccines can be given normally.
- Individuals who have previous immunosuppressive therapy: not live attenuated vaccines > temporary (directed by specialist). Inactivated vaccines can be given normally.
- Individuals who have had encephalitis or myelitis soon (within 7 days) after a previous dose of the vaccine and that is verified to have been caused by the vaccine > usually permanent.
- Some vaccines are contraindicated to some patients: for example, a rotavirus vaccine should not be given if a child has had a bowel blockage called “intussusception”.
- Pregnant women: not live attenuated vaccines > temporary (during pregnancy). Some inactivated vaccines are recommended during pregnancy: e.g., seasonal influenza vaccination and tetanus booster vaccine.
- Newborn babies whose mother has had immunosuppressive therapy during pregnancy: not live attenuated vaccines in the first months (directed by specialist).
- Fever or moderate /severe acute illness > temporary.
- Neurological symptoms (such as convulsions, central nervous system symptoms, epilepsy symptoms) or newfound diseases which are under examination > temporary (vaccination directed by specialist).
- Blood transfusion or immunoglobulin: not live attenuated vaccines straight after the treatment > temporary.

References

Government UK. 2017. Immunisation against infectious disease. The Green Book. Chapter 6: Contraindications and special considerations.

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<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/genrec.html> (Retrieved 25.2.2020)