

# VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question: Which of the following, if any, should receive varicella vaccine (age appropriate dosing) and which, if any, should have a varicella titer drawn after vaccination?

- a) Nursing student, 24 years old, with no history of disease and no documentation of varicella vaccination, prior to clinical rotations
- b) Hospital employee, 52 years old, with self-reported varicella disease and negative varicella titer
- c) Medical student with two valid, documented doses of varicella vaccine and negative varicella titer
- d) 5-year old child who received his first dose of varicella vaccine at age 12 months and his second dose at age 14 months

Source: Prevention of Varicella: Recommendations of the ACIP: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/r5604.pdf> Immunization Action Coalition Ask the Experts: [https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts\\_var.asp](https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_var.asp)

Evidence of immunity to varicella includes any of the following:

- Documentation of age-appropriate vaccination with a varicella vaccine
  - Preschool-aged children: 1 dose
  - School-aged children, adolescents, and adults: 2 doses
- Laboratory evidence of immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease
- Birth in the U.S. before 1980 (not for healthcare personnel, pregnant women, and immunocompromised persons)
- Diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella disease by a healthcare provider
- Diagnosis or verification of herpes zoster by a healthcare provider

Birth in the US before 1980 is not considered evidence of immunity for healthcare personnel because of the possibility of nosocomial transmission to high-risk patients.

The recommended minimum interval between two doses of varicella vaccine for children 12 months through 12 years of age is 12 weeks. However, the second dose of varicella does not need to be repeated if it was separated from the first dose by at least 4 weeks.

Postvaccination serologic testing to verify an immune response to varicella vaccine is not routinely recommended because available commercial assays lack sensitivity in detecting vaccine induced immunity and might give false negative results.

Documentation of receipt of two doses of varicella vaccine supersedes results of subsequent serologic testing.

|                      |     |     |    |
|----------------------|-----|-----|----|
| a) Nursing student   | Yes | Yes | No |
| b) Hospital employee | Yes | Yes | No |
| c) Medical student   | No  | No  | No |
| d) 5-year old child  | No  | No  | No |

Needs age-appropriate dose(s) of varicella vaccine

Needs post-vaccination titer

Answer:

