

YOU CALL THE SHOTS

Vaccine Administration: Subcutaneous (SUBCUT) Injection

Administer these vaccines by SUBCUT injection:

- DEN4CYD (Dengue)
- MMR (M-M-R II, Priorix)
- MMRV (ProQuad)
- PPSV23* (Pneumovax)
- Varicella (Varivax)

Note: Age, recommendations for use, and other indications vary by product. Always review manufacturers' product information as well as the current immunization schedule for children (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html) or adults (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html) before administering vaccine.

* May also be administered by intramuscular injection.

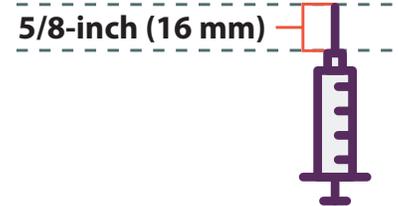
To ensure vaccines are safe and effective, it's important to prepare and administer them correctly:

- Follow aseptic technique.
- Use a new, separate needle and syringe for each injection.
- Perform hand hygiene before vaccine preparation, between patients, when changing gloves (if worn), and any time hands become soiled.†

† Gloves are not required unless the person administering the vaccine is likely to come in contact with potentially infectious body fluids or has open lesions on the hands. If worn, perform hand hygiene and change gloves between patients.

1. Use the correct syringe and needle.

- Administer the vaccine using either a 1-mL or 3-mL syringe.
- Use the correct gauge and needle length.
 - 23- to 25-gauge needle
 - 5/8-inch (16 mm) needle



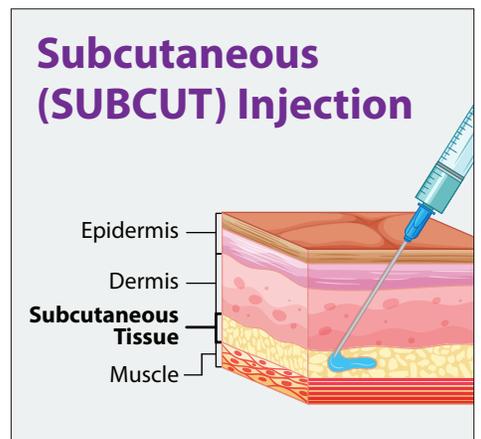
2. Identify the injection site.

- Infants less than 12 months of age: Thigh‡
- Persons 12 months of age and older: Upper outer triceps area of the arm

‡ May be administered into the upper outer triceps area if necessary.

3. Administer the vaccine correctly.

- Inject the vaccine into the subcutaneous tissue. Insert the needle at a 45-degree angle and inject all the vaccine. Pinching up the skin may be necessary to ensure injection into the subcutaneous tissue.
- Aspiration (i.e., pulling back on the plunger) is not necessary before injecting the vaccine. No large blood vessels are present at the recommended injection sites, and a process that includes aspiration might be more painful. For more information, see www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/administration.html
- If administering more than one injection in the same limb separate the injection sites by 1 inch, if possible.



For additional information, go to CDC's clinical resources on vaccine administration

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization: Vaccine Administration section at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/administration.html
- CDC's Vaccine administration resource library at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/resource-library.html

