

**Who Should NOT Receive the Smallpox Vaccine?  
Unless they are Exposed to the Smallpox Virus**

- Expectant mothers
- People with eczema or atopic dermatitis
- People being treated for cancer
- People who are HIV-positive
- People who have had an organ transplant

**Here's why**

Some people are at greater risk for serious side effects from the smallpox vaccine.

**Individuals who have any of the following conditions, or live with someone who does,** should **NOT** get the smallpox vaccine unless they have been exposed to the smallpox virus. Higher risk conditions are:

- Eczema or atopic dermatitis. (This is true even if the condition is mild or experienced as a child.)
- Skin conditions such as burns, chickenpox, shingles, impetigo, herpes, severe acne, or psoriasis. (People with any of these conditions should not get the vaccine until they have completely healed.)
- Weakened immune system. (Cancer treatment, an organ transplant, HIV, or medications to treat autoimmune disorders and other illnesses can weaken the immune system.)
- Pregnancy or plans to become pregnant within one month of vaccination.

In addition, individuals should not get the smallpox vaccine if they:

- Are allergic to the vaccine or any of its ingredients.
- Are less than 18 years of age.
- Have a moderate or severe short-term illness. (These people should wait until they are completely recovered to get the vaccine.)

***Again, people who have been exposed to the smallpox virus should get the vaccine, regardless of their health status.***

**Don't Hesitate!**

If offered the smallpox vaccine, individuals should tell their immunization provider if they have any of the above conditions, or even if they suspect they might.