

Pneumococcal Vaccine: What You Need to Know



Pneumococcal disease refers to a wide range of infections caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae* including ear infections, sinus infections, pneumonia, and sepsis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Recommends the Following for Pneumococcal Vaccines:

- **PCV15 or PCV20** (pneumococcal conjugate vaccination) for all adults 65 years or older.
- **If PCV15 is used**, this should be followed by a dose of PPSV23 (polysaccharide vaccine).

Why It Matters

Adults 65 years and older are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease. Adults with certain chronic conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, are also at increased risk. Pneumococcal disease in adults can range from mild to serious and can sometimes be deadly.

What You Can Do

Getting a pneumococcal vaccine can help prevent serious illness and hospitalization. Talk to your primary care provider to decide which vaccine is right for you.

Also, consider sharing information about the pneumococcal vaccine with your friends, family members, and others in your network who are older adults or at increased risk.



Additional Resources:

<https://qi.ipro.org/home/its-worth-a-shot/>

<https://qi-library.ipro.org/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/resources/prevent-pneumococcal-factsheet.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/public/>