



# Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV) for children

## About pneumococcal disease

Pneumococcal vaccines can prevent infections caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. These bacteria can cause many types of infections, including pneumonia, which can cause the lungs to fill with fluid.

Symptoms of pneumonia include:

- coughing, sometimes with phlegm or pus
- shortness of breath or wheezing
- difficulty breathing
- fever and/or chills
- sharp chest pain when you breathe or cough
- tiredness

Besides pneumonia, these bacteria can also cause

- ear infections
- sinus infections
- meningitis (infection of the tissue covering the brain and spinal cord)
- bacteremia (infection of the blood)

The U.S. has seen a dramatic decline in invasive pneumococcal disease in both children and adults since the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV) were first recommended in 2000.

Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but children younger than age 2, adults 50 and older, and people with certain health conditions are at higher risk. Conditions include chronic diseases of the heart, kidney, liver, or lung, cochlear implant, decreased immune function from disease or drugs, diabetes, and moderate to severe asthma.

## Important details

CDC recommends routine pneumococcal vaccine for children younger than age 5.

Children ages 2-23 months should receive 4 doses of PCV15 or PCV20 at 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months of age.

Healthy children younger than age 5 with incomplete vaccination should receive PCV15 or PCV20. Children younger than age 6 with certain underlying conditions and incomplete vaccination should also receive PCV15 or PCV20.

Children age 2 through 18 years with any risk condition who received all recommended doses before age 6 do not need additional doses if they got at least one PCV20.

- If PCV20 was not used, they should receive one dose of PCV20 or PPSV23.

Children age 6 through age 18 with any risk condition who have not received any dose of PCV vaccine should receive a single dose of PCV15 or PCV20.

- If PCV15 is used, follow with one dose of PPSV23, 8 weeks later.



# What to expect after vaccination

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination—this is how you know the vaccine is working. Side effects are usually mild and resolve on their own within a few days. Some normal immune responses after the pneumococcal vaccine include:

- pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- headache
- fever or chills
- loss of appetite

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of any type of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV15 or PCV20, or earlier pneumococcal conjugate vaccines PCV7 or PCV13)
- has had an allergic reaction to any vaccine containing diphtheria toxin, such as DTaP
- has any severe, life-threatening allergies

Infants with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. Infants who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting pneumococcal vaccine. In some cases, your child's healthcare provider may decide to postpone pneumococcal vaccination until a future visit.

As with any medicine, there is a very small chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

# Pneumococcal vaccination statistics

**93%**

reduction in invasive pneumococcal disease rates among children younger than age 5

**150,000**

people are hospitalized each year in the U.S. due to pneumococcal pneumonia

**5-7%**

death rate due to invasive pneumococcal disease, with a higher rate observed among the highest risk groups

For more vaccine information, go to **[immunize.utah.gov](https://immunize.utah.gov)** or scan the QR code!

