

## Pneumonia Vaccine FAQs

### What is pneumococcal disease?

- Pneumococcal disease is common in young children, but older adults are at greatest risk of serious pneumococcal infections and even death. It can range from ear and sinus infections to pneumonia and bloodstream infections.

### Who should get pneumococcal vaccines?

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends pneumococcal vaccination for all babies and children younger than 2 years old and all adults 65 years or older. In certain situations, other children and adults should also get pneumococcal vaccines.

### How well do these vaccines work?

- Vaccines that help protect against pneumococcal disease work well, but cannot prevent all cases.
- Studies\* show that at least one dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13 or Prevnar 13<sup>®</sup>) protects
  - At least eight out of 10 babies from invasive pneumococcal disease
  - 75 out of 100 adults 65 years or older against invasive pneumococcal disease
  - 45 out of 100 adults 65 years or older against pneumococcal pneumonia

### What types of pneumococcal vaccines are there?

There are two pneumococcal vaccines that are licensed for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Your doctor will recommend one or the other:

- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13 or Prevnar 13<sup>®</sup>), which protects against 13 types of pneumococcal bacteria
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23 or Pneumovax23<sup>®</sup>), which protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria

#### **Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine: CDC recommends vaccination with the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13 or Prevnar 13<sup>®</sup>) for**

- All babies and children younger than 2 years old
- Adults 65 years or older
- People 2 through 64 years old who are at increased risk for disease due to certain medical conditions

#### **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine: CDC recommends vaccination with the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23 or Pneumovax23<sup>®</sup>) for**

- Adults 65 years or older
- People 2 through 64 years old who are at increased risk for disease due to certain medical conditions
- Adults 19 through 64 years old who smoke cigarettes

For Vaccine Schedules and Guidelines visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

Additional questions and answers may be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html>