

Pneumonia Vaccine FAQs

What is Pneumococcal disease?

- Pneumococcal (Pneumonia) disease is common in young children, but older adults are at greatest risk of serious pneumococcal infections and even death.

Who should get Pneumococcal vaccines?

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends pneumococcal vaccination for all babies and children younger than 2 years old and all adults aged 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 1 dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13 or Prevnar 13[®]) protects:
 - At least 8 out of 10 babies from invasive pneumococcal disease.
 - 75 out of 100 adults aged 65 years or older against invasive pneumococcal disease.
 - 45 out of 100 adults aged 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):

- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13 or Prevnar 13[®]), which protects against 13 types of pneumococcal bacteria.
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23 or Pneumovax23[®]), which protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine – the CDC recommends vaccination with the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13 or Prevnar 13[®]) for:

- All babies and children younger than 2 years old
- All adults aged 65 years or older
- People aged 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[®]) for:

- All adults aged 65 years or older
- People aged 2 through 64 years old who are at increased risk for disease due to certain medical conditions
- Adults aged 19 – 64 years 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>