

# What to Know About Pneumococcal Vaccines for Adults

Pneumococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and can lead to severe infections like pneumonia, meningitis, and bloodstream infections. These infections can be particularly dangerous for certain populations, including older adults, young children, and those with chronic health conditions.<sup>1</sup> Thousands of older adults are hospitalized with pneumococcal disease every year, and half of all deaths from this disease are among people 65 and older.<sup>2</sup>

## Adults 19-49 Years Old With a Risk Condition

➔ According to the CDC, adults ages 19-49 may need more than the routine childhood pneumococcal vaccine doses if they have certain risk conditions. The type of pneumococcal vaccine and number of doses needed depend on the specific condition you have and the vaccines you've already received.

To learn more about CDC's specific guidance on based on your specific condition and vaccine history, click [here](#).

If you have questions about pneumococcal vaccines or whether you have an eligible risk condition, please talk to a healthcare provider.

If you have any of the below conditions, talk to your healthcare provider to ensure your pneumococcal vaccines are up to date:

- ▶ Alcoholism
- ▶ Chronic lung or heart disease
- ▶ Cigarette smoking
- ▶ Cochlear implant
- ▶ Cerebrospinal fluid leak
- ▶ Damaged spleen or having no spleen
- ▶ Disease or condition that weakens the immune system
- ▶ HIV infection
- ▶ Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency
- ▶ Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency
- ▶ Sickle cell disease or other inherited blood disorders
- ▶ Diabetes mellitus
- ▶ Congenital or acquired asplenia, or splenic dysfunction
- ▶ Chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome
- ▶ Diseases or conditions treated with immunosuppressive drugs or radiation therapy

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2406/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/index.html>