

# What to Know About Pneumococcal Vaccines for Adults

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Pneumococcal disease is caused by a bacterial infection and can result in many different types of infections, including pneumonia. Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but certain people are at increased risk. The best way to help prevent pneumococcal disease is to get vaccinated. Thousands of older adults are hospitalized with pneumococcal disease every year. The CDC recommends vaccines for all adults ages 50 and older and younger adults with specific risk conditions.<sup>1</sup>

## Adults 50+

➔ All adults 50 years and older are recommended to get vaccinated against pneumococcal disease.

## Adults 19–49 Years Old With a Health Condition

➔ 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 based on your specific condition and vaccine history, visit [cdc.gov/pneumococcal/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/vaccines).**

**If you have questions about pneumococcal vaccines or whether you have a health condition that puts you at higher risk, 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
- ▶ Solid organ transplant
- ▶ 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.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/hcp/vaccine-recommendations/index.html>