

What to Know About Pneumococcal Vaccines for Children and Adolescents

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Pneumococcal disease is dangerous for children and adolescents, and those under 5 years of age are especially at risk.¹ Getting the pneumococcal vaccine helps prevent severe infections that can lead to hospitalization or even death. Being vaccinated reduces the risk of complications from pneumococcal disease, especially in children. All children under 5 should receive a pneumococcal vaccine and those with underlying medical conditions may need additional doses.

Children Under 5

➔ All children under 5 years of age are recommended to get vaccinated against pneumococcal disease.

Children 2-18 Years Old With a Health Condition

➔ Children and adolescents (2-18 years of age) 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 child's age, the specific condition they have, and the vaccines they've already received.

If you have any questions about pneumococcal vaccines or whether your child or adolescent has a health condition that puts them at higher risk, please talk to a healthcare provider.

If your child or adolescent has any of the below conditions, talk to their healthcare provider to ensure their pneumococcal vaccines are up to date:

- ▶ Cerebrospinal fluid leak
- ▶ Chronic liver disease
- ▶ Cochlear implant
- ▶ Immunocompromising condition
- ▶ Diabetes mellitus
- ▶ HIV infection
- ▶ Chronic kidney disease, excluding maintenance dialysis or nephrotic syndrome
- ▶ Congenital or acquired asplenia, or splenic dysfunction
- ▶ Maintenance dialysis or nephrotic syndrome
- ▶ Chronic lung disease
- ▶ Sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathy
- ▶ Diseases or conditions treated with immunosuppressive drugs or radiation therapy
- ▶ Chronic heart disease

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/index.html>