

Infectious Respiratory Disease Immunization Timeline

OLDER ADULTS (AGE 50+)

Immunization is the best protection against many infectious respiratory illnesses. Vaccines strengthen our immune defenses and reduce the severity and spread of disease. Learn more about recommended immunizations [here](#).

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)¹

Adults who have never been vaccinated against pertussis should receive a single dose of the Tdap vaccine. After receipt of the Tdap vaccine, adults should continue to receive the Td or Tdap vaccines for routine booster vaccination every 10 years.

PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE²

Adults ages 50 and older are at higher risk for serious illness and death from pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcal vaccine recommendations for adults 50 and older are based on the individual's immunization history:

PRIOR VACCINES	OPTION A	OPTION B
None	PCV20 or PCV21	PCV15 followed by PPSV23 after one year. If PPSV23 is not available, PCV20 or PCV21 may be used.
PPSV23 only at any age	PCV20 or PCV21 after one year	PCV15 after one year
PCV13 only at any age	PCV20 or PCV21 after one year	N/A
PCV13 at any age & PPSV23 at <65 years	PCV20 or PCV21 after five years	N/A

Vaccine options and timing may vary depending on an individual's vaccination history. Talk to your provider about your vaccination history to determine your best options for vaccination.

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)³

Adults ages 75 and older should receive a single dose of the RSV vaccine.

Adults 50-74 years who are increased risk for severe RSV disease should receive a single dose of RSV vaccine. This includes individuals with certain chronic medical conditions, those with moderate or severe immune compromise, and persons living in nursing homes, among other risk factors.

INFLUENZA (FLU)⁴

Everyone ages 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every year, starting in the fall.

Adults ages 65 years and older should receive a higher-dose flu vaccine or an adjuvanted flu vaccine (one with an additional ingredient called an adjuvant that helps create a stronger immune response), which are more effective for people in this age group.

If none of these preferentially recommended vaccines are available at the time of vaccination, any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be administered instead, rather than delaying vaccination.

COVID-19⁵

FDA-approved 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for adults 18 years and older based on individual-based decision-making, also known as shared clinical decision-making. Vaccination is most favorable for those at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.

