

Pneumococcal Disease Risk in Adults: Ages 50 and Older

CVEEP
Fighting Infectious
Respiratory Disease

Many people are familiar with mild illnesses caused by bacteria, like sinus infections or the seasonal coughs that make their way through every household. Pneumococcal disease is caused by one of these bacteria. However, the same bacteria can sometimes cause much more serious, life-threatening infections. When the bacteria spreads to the lungs (pneumonia), the fluid around the brain (meningitis), or the bloodstream (bacteremia), it can trigger invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), a serious condition that often requires a hospital stay and can result in significant complications.

Adults ages 50 and older are at higher risk for severe illness due to pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcal vaccines are the most effective tool to help prevent severe illness and protect your health.

Pneumococcal vaccines are recommended for all adults 50 years of age and older, and they are available year-round.

By the numbers



Nearly 1 million US adults infected with pneumococcal pneumonia yearly¹



Up to 150,000 hospitalized yearly for pneumococcal pneumonia²



About 1 in 20 who develop pneumococcal pneumonia do not survive³

The impact of pneumococcal disease extends into daily life...



Among adults aged 50-64, IPD was associated with substantial healthcare resource use, including average costs of nearly **\$53,000** per illness and an average hospital stay of about **11 days**.⁴



Beyond the numbers, pneumococcal disease can mean **lost independence, time in the hospital, and lasting health complications**.

Your best protection

Vaccination is the most effective way to help prevent severe illness from pneumococcal disease.

If you are 50 or older, talk to a healthcare provider about getting a pneumococcal vaccine today and check out our [Vaccine Locator](#) to help find a vaccination location near you.

¹ <https://www.thoracic.org/patients/patient-resources/resources/top-pneumonia-facts.pdf>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/pinkbook/hcp/table-of-contents/chapter-17-pneumococcal-disease.html>

³ <https://www.nfid.org/resource/top-5-reasons-for-adults-to-get-vaccinated-for-pneumococcal-disease>

⁴ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12303970/>