

Protect Me From...

Strep. Pneumonia

(PCV15/20/23)



**A BACTERIA
CAN CAUSE PNEUMONIA,
BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS
(BACTEREMIA), MENINGITIS, SINUS
AND EAR INFECTIONS.**



Disease Information

WHAT HAPPENS

Streptococcus pneumoniae can infect the lungs, blood, brain, and ears.

It may cause:

- Pneumonia (cough, fever, shortness of breath)
- Meningitis (neck stiffness, confusion)
- Bloodstream infection (sepsis)

WHY GET VACCINATED

Pneumococcal disease can be severe or fatal.

It is especially dangerous for:

- Infants and young children,
- Adults ≥ 65 years,
- People with chronic conditions (heart, lung, kidney disease, diabetes),
- Immunocompromised patients

Vaccination significantly reduces severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

HOW IT SPREADS

Spread through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, or close contact.

Many people carry the bacteria without symptoms.

Vaccine Information

HOW IT WORKS

The pneumococcal vaccine helps your immune system recognize and fight Strep. pneumoniae before it causes serious infection. Vaccines protect against the most common and dangerous strains.

VACCINE SCHEDULE

- PCV (Conjugate vaccines): PCV13, PCV15, PCV20
- PPSV23 (Polysaccharide vaccine): Covers additional strains in some adults

Children: Routine PCV series starting at 2 months of age

Adults ≥ 65 years: PCV20 or PCV15 followed by PPSV23

High-risk adults (19–64): Recommended based on medical conditions

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS



Soreness or swelling at injection site

Fever (100.4° F or greater)

Fatigue, muscle aches, headache



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**Immunization Literacy and
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TALK WITH YOUR DOCTOR

If you/your child:

- Are pregnant or breastfeeding
- Are currently ill
- Have a weakened immune system and need guidance on timing
- Have had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of any type of PCV, or to any vaccine containing diphtheria toxoid (for example, DTaP), or has any severe, life-threatening allergies



**MORE INFORMATION
FROM THE
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL OF
PENNSYLVANIA**



**PLEASE FILL OUT A
SHORT SURVEY TO
HELP US IMPROVE**

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FAQ

What is the pneumococcal vaccine?

The pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against infections caused by pneumococcal bacteria. It significantly lowers the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Is the pneumococcal vaccine safe?

- Yes. The vaccine has been used for many years and is closely monitored for safety. Serious side effects are very rare.

Can the vaccine give me pneumonia?

- No. The vaccine cannot cause pneumococcal disease. It does not contain live bacteria.

Do I still need the vaccine if I had pneumonia before?

- Yes. Having pneumonia in the past does not guarantee protection against future pneumococcal infections.

Why is the vaccine important if I'm healthy?

- Even healthy people can develop severe pneumococcal infections. Vaccination protects you from serious illness, helps prevent spread to vulnerable individuals (like babies and older adults) and reduces hospitalizations and complications.