

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Pneumococcal Disease

The **Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine** is part of the routine Yukon Children's Immunization Program. **Pneumococcal disease** is caused by a bacteria that can infect many parts of the body and result in serious complications and sometimes death. This vaccine protects against 13 different types of the bacteria. These bacteria are spread by coughing/sneezing, or direct contact with infected saliva.

The **Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine** is given as part of the routine immunization schedule. Extra doses may be given to infants/children that have certain high risk conditions (e.g. diabetes, chronic kidney or liver disease). These children, and other specific high risk adults, may later need an additional dose of the Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine as well. Talk with your health care provider about what you require.

Pneumococcal infection can cause:

- Ear and sinus infections
- Pneumonia
- Meningitis (infection of the fluid in the brain/spinal cord)
- Infections of the blood stream

Complications may lead to:

- Deafness
- Brain damage
- Death (26% of meningitis cases)

Why is the Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine recommended?

Many people who are exposed to pneumococcal bacteria only have mild symptoms, but some people are at high risk of getting very sick, including young children, older adults and individuals with certain medical conditions. The risk also increases when sick with a viral infection, like the flu. This vaccine is effective and safe, and is the best way to prevent or lessen the complications of pneumococcal infections. Getting vaccinated against pneumococcal disease helps protect others and yourself.

Possible side effects of the vaccine:

Common reactions to the immunization may include redness, tenderness, and swelling at the injection site. Some may develop a fever, headache, fatigue, or digestive problems. These are generally mild and last 1-2 days.

Side effects of the immunization are easily relieved by: Applying a cold/damp compress to the site, administering acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperatures 38.5°C or higher. See your health care provider if your symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any immunization because there is a rare possibility of developing a severe allergic reaction which is treatable at the clinic. This happens to fewer than 1 in 1 million people. If it happens after you leave the clinic, call 911 or the local emergency number.

www.yukonimmunization.ca

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Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

Pneumococcal Disease

The **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine** is given to prevent or lessen the complications of infections by pneumococcal bacteria. **Pneumococcal disease** is caused by a bacteria that can infect many parts of the body and result in serious complications and sometimes death. This vaccine protects against 23 different types of the bacteria. These bacteria are spread by coughing/sneezing, or direct contact with infected saliva.

The **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine** offered free of charge to high risk individuals such as: those over age 65, those with certain chronic conditions, those who are immunocompromised, smokers, illicit drug users, and the homeless. For certain high risk conditions, you may require a booster dose. Talk with your health care provider about what you may require.

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- Brain damage
- Death (26% of meningitis cases)

Why is the Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine recommended?

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