

# Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

## Invasive Pneumococcal Disease



### **Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine is part of the Routine Yukon Immunization Program**

Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) is caused by bacteria. It can lead to serious illnesses, such as brain infections (meningitis), blood stream infections (bacteremia) and lung infections (pneumonia), or even death. The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine protects against multiple strains of the bacteria. IPD is spread by coughing or sneezing, or direct contact with infected saliva. The Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine is given in the Yukon as part of the routine immunization schedule for children, individuals with certain medical conditions and to others at higher risk of IPD including those over 65. Talk with your health care provider about getting the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

### **Pneumococcal infection can cause:**

- ear and sinus infections;
- pneumonia;
- meningitis (infection of the fluid in the brain and spinal cord); and
- infections of the blood stream.

### **Complications may lead to:**

- deafness;
- brain damage; and
- death (26% of meningitis cases).

### **Why is the Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine recommended?**

Many individuals exposed to pneumococcal bacteria experience mild symptoms. However, some are at high risk of developing serious illness, including young children, older adults and people with specific medical conditions. The risk also increases when one is ill with a viral infection, such as the flu. This vaccine is both safe and effective, offering the best protection against pneumococcal infections and their complications. By getting vaccinated, you help protect yourself and others from pneumococcal disease.

### **Possible side effects of the vaccine**

Common reactions to the shot 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 to 2 days.

Side effects of the immunization are easy to relieve. Apply a cold, damp compress to the site. If needed, give a pain reliver like acetaminophen. Talk to your health care provider if your symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

It's important to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine because, although it's very rare, some people might have a severe allergic reaction. The clinic can treat it right away. This happens to less than 1 in a million people. If you have a reaction after leaving, call 911 or your local emergency number.