

Pneumococcal Conjugate 21 Vaccine

Vaccines have saved more lives compared to any other medical intervention. Vaccines help the immune system recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause serious diseases.

Some pneumococcal diseases are vaccine preventable.

- Pneumococcal diseases are caused by different types of *Streptococci pneumoniae* ('strep') bacteria and cause many deaths worldwide.
- Pneumococcal diseases are most common in young children, the elderly and persons who have certain underlying medical conditions or lifestyles.
- These bacteria can cause ear and sinus infections, bronchitis, serious and life-threatening infections of the lungs (pneumonia), blood (bacteremia) and the lining that covers the brain (meningitis) or death may occur.
- Permanent complications include brain damage and deafness.

How are pneumococcal bacteria spread?

- Pneumococcal bacteria are spread directly from one person to another through coughing, sneezing, in saliva when kissing, through sharing drinks, or close face-to-face contact.
- People can pick up the bacteria if they touch surfaces that have the bacteria on them.
- Many people carry pneumococcal bacteria in their nose and throat but do not become sick.

How can pneumococcal disease be prevented?

- Be immunized. When you are immunized, you help protect others as well.
- Clean your hands regularly.
- Cover your mouth when coughing and your nose and mouth when sneezing to prevent direct contact with droplets from the nose or throat.

Important to know:

- This vaccine provides protection against 21 pneumococcal bacterial strains that commonly affect adults 65 years and older.
- This vaccine does not protect against other pneumococcal bacterial strains.

Who may get this vaccine for free?

- Adults 65 years and older who have never received any previous pneumococcal vaccines.
- Adults 65 years and older who have risk factors for pneumococcal disease such as:
 - Long-term care, personal care home and group home residents
 - Acquired complement deficiency
 - Asplenia (congenital, acquired, or functional)
 - Cancer (must have current diagnosis and not in remission)
 - Congenital immunodeficiency
 - Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
 - Immunosuppression related to disease or treatment
 - Kidney disease
 - Sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies
- Transplant patients 65 years and older
 - Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients

NOTE: Eligibility for these risk factors is based on age, risk factor, pneumococcal immunization history and interval from last pneumococcal vaccine dose.

Who should not get this vaccine?

Persons who have a serious acute illness, with or without a fever should delay immunizations. People who had a serious or life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of any pneumococcal vaccine, or any components of this vaccine.

What are common reactions to this vaccine?

Vaccines are very safe and effective. It is much safer to get this vaccine than to get pneumococcal disease.

- Pain, swelling, redness at the injection site.
- Fatigue, fever, headache, muscle aches.
- These mild reactions generally last 1 to 2 days.
- Only treat a fever (at least 6 to 8 hours after immunization) if you are uncomfortable and not sleeping.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips.

This reaction can be treated and occurs in less than one in one million people who get the vaccine. If this happens after you leave the clinic, get medical attention or call 911 right away.

Who should you report reactions to?

- Report any adverse or unexpected reactions to your local public health nurse, your doctor, nurse practitioner or call Healthline 811 as soon as possible.

Talk to a public health nurse:

- If you have questions or concerns about your reaction to an immunization.
- If you had to go to a doctor, a hospital or to a health centre with a symptom that might be related to immunization.

What does this vaccine contain?

CAPVAXIVE[®]™ contains 21 Streptococcus pneumoniae bacterial serotypes (3, 6A, 7F, 8, 9N, 10A, 11A, 12F, 15A, deOAc15B, 16F, 17F, 19A, 20A, 22F, 23A, 23B, 24F, 31, 33F, and 35B) on a CRM197 carrier protein, L-histidine, polysorbate 20, sodium chloride, and water for injection. Preservative-free. Latex-free.

Provincial immunization fact sheets are available at www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize.

For more information, contact your local public health office, your physician, nurse practitioner, HealthLine online or by calling 811.

References: [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).
CAPVAXIVE product monograph.