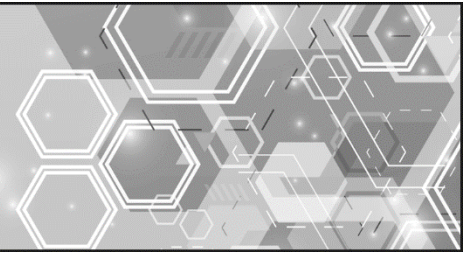




Durham Region Health Department Facts about...



Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines

What are they?

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines protect you from bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus). Most pneumococcal infections are mild but can invade parts of the body that are normally bacteria-free. When this happens, a serious disease called invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) can develop, which can cause serious symptoms, lifelong disability or even death. For more information, see [Facts About...Pneumococcal Disease](#).

How effective are the vaccines?

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines are approved for use by Health Canada, are safe, and protect against many different types of bacteria that cause pneumococcal disease.

Who should get the vaccine?

There are three types of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines available for different groups. The following people can get the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for free:

- Children 6 weeks to 4 years of age who are at **low risk** for IPD can get the Pneu-C-15 vaccine.
- People 6 weeks to 64 years of age at **high risk** for IPD can get the Pneu-C-20 vaccine. Refer to the high-risk criteria in the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario.
- People 65 years and older can get the Pneu-C-21 vaccine.
- In Ontario, children who go to licensed childcare must get the pneumococcal vaccine, unless they have a valid exemption with the Health Department.

What is the schedule for the vaccine?

Talk to a health care provider about the vaccine schedule that is right for you.

- **Pneu-C-15 vaccine:** 3 doses are usually given to children at 2, 4, and 12 months of age.
- **Pneu-C-20 vaccine:** up to 4 doses of may be given to people at high risk for IPD.
- **Pneu-C-21 vaccine:** 1 dose is usually given at 65 years of age and older.
- The minimum time between pneumococcal conjugate vaccine doses is 8 weeks.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



Are there side effects with the vaccine?

- Pneumococcal vaccines are safe and well tolerated. Side effects are usually mild and last a short time.
- The most common side effects are soreness, redness and/or swelling where the needle was given. Other mild side effects may include:
 - Fever
 - Drowsiness
 - Loss of appetite
 - Headache
 - Muscle or joint ache
 - Chills
 - Fussiness (irritability) – babies only
- If you think you are having a serious reaction, see a health care provider right away. Any new or important changes in your health after a vaccine should be reported to a health care provider and the Durham Region Health Department.

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

People who have had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of pneumococcal vaccine or to any part of the vaccine.

Don't forget to update your immunization record!

After you or your child gets a vaccine, update your immunization record (yellow card). For children in school or childcare, report your child's vaccines to the Health Department. Health care providers do not report vaccines to the Health Department automatically. Keep your records updated and in a safe place.

After your child receives a vaccine, update Durham Region Health Department:

- Online at durham.ca/immunize (you can attach a photo of your record)
- By calling 1-800-841-2729 or 905-666-6242
- By faxing your vaccine record to 905-666-6216

The [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\)](#) tool allows you to see your child's vaccine record online anytime.

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