

Pneumococcal Conjugate (Pneu-C-13) Vaccine

What is invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD)?

IPD is a bacterial infection caused by a type of bacteria called streptococcus pneumoniae (or pneumococcus). This type of bacteria can cause any of the following:

- pneumonia (lung infection)
- bacteraemia (infection of the blood)
- meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord)
- complications may lead to deafness or even death, especially in people with a high risk medical condition.

The bacteria that cause IPD can live at the back of the nose and throat without causing symptoms. People of all ages can be healthy carriers of pneumococci bacteria, but young children are the most frequent carriers of the bacteria.

The bacteria is spread through droplets in the air from coughing or sneezing. Bacteria can also be spread through the saliva of an infected person when common items are shared, e.g., beverages (bottles, straws), eating utensils or chewing on toys.

Sometimes antibiotics do not work against the pneumococcal infection, when this happens it is more difficult to treat the infection.

Who should get the vaccine?

Invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) is most common in the very young, the elderly and certain specific groups at high risk, such as individuals with functional or anatomic asplenia and congenital or acquired immune deficiency, including those with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). About one in four children who become ill from IPD have an underlying medical condition.

Pneu-C-13 provides a high level of protection against 13 strains of pneumococcal bacteria including; 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A,6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F and 23F. It also prevents passing the bacteria onto others who may be at risk.

Pneu-C-13 Vaccine

Pneu-C-13 is approved for infants and children from six weeks to less than six years and is included as part of the routine immunization schedule for children in Ontario.

The vaccine is routinely given to healthy children at two, four and 12 months of age and high risk children at two, four, six and 15 months of age. High risk adults over 50 years of age are also eligible to receive the vaccine.*

High-risk children include:

- Sickle cell disease or other sickle cell disorders
- non-functioning or missing spleen
- HIV infection
- conditions that suppress the immune system (e.g., cancer, organ transplant, nephrotic syndrome, long-term corticosteroid use)
- chronic medical conditions (e.g., chronic heart or lung disease, diabetes mellitus, cerebrospinal fluid leak, chronic kidney or liver disease)
- before or after a cochlear implant

Catch up schedules are also available to offer children a broader level of protection. Talk to your health care provider to determine your child's individual need.

*Please check your health care provider if you qualify or call Public Health

High risk adults include:

- non-functioning or missing spleen
- Sickle cell disease or other Sickle cell disorders
- conditions that suppress the immune system (eg. cancer, organ transplant, nephrotic syndrome, long-term corticosteroid use)
- inherited immunodeficiencies that affect immune function
- malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma
- individuals who have undergone human stem cell transplant
- individuals with HIV

What are the side effects?

Most reactions tend to be mild and include soreness, redness, itching and/or rash where the needle was given. Other side effects such as headache, dizziness and nausea may occur.

Who should not get the vaccine?

You should not be immunized if you have:

- an allergy to latex, diphtheria or aluminum
- a severe allergic reaction to a prior dose of the vaccine
- a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold

When should I seek medical attention?

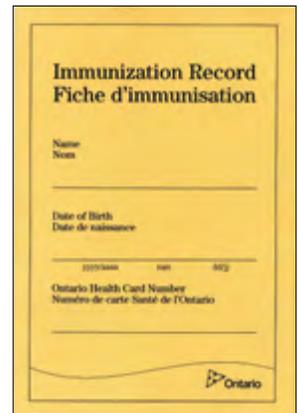
If you develop hives, swelling of the face or mouth, trouble breathing, serious drowsiness or other serious problems.

Your record of protection

After any immunization, ensure your personal immunization record or "yellow card" is updated. Keep it in a safe place.

Questions?

Talk to your health care provider or contact Public Health at 519-575-4400.



Accessible formats of this document are available upon request.

Region of Waterloo Public Health

Infectious Diseases, Dental and Sexual Health