

What is pneumococcal disease?

- 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.

How are pneumococcal bacteria spread?

- Pneumococcal bacteria are spread directly from one person to another through coughing or sneezing, in saliva when kissing, sharing drinks, or through 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.

To prevent the disease:

- Be immunized. When you are immunized, you help protect others as well.
- This vaccine provides protection against 20 common pneumococcal bacterial strains. It does not protect against other pneumococcal bacterial strains.

What are the symptoms of pneumococcal disease?

- 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.

Who may get this vaccine for free?

See the link or scan the QR code below to find out if this applies to you.

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/123846/formats/144164/download>



Who should purchase this vaccine?

- Individuals 18 years and older who do NOT qualify for publicly funded Pneumococcal conjugate 20 vaccine, especially those with underlying conditions putting them at risk, and those for whom it is recommended by their healthcare provider

How many doses will I need?

- Currently, only 1 dose is recommended. At this point in time, no additional doses are recommended.

Who should not get this vaccine?

- Anyone who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine.
- People with severe illness may have to delay immunization.



What does the vaccine contain?

- PREVNAR 20™ contains 20 Streptococcus pneumoniae bacterial serotypes (1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 8, 9V, 10A, 11A, 12F, 14, 15B, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F, and 33F) on a CRM197 carrier protein, aluminum phosphate, polysorbate 80, sodium chloride, succinic acid and water for injection.
- Preservative-free and latex-free.

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, tenderness, itching or rash at the injection site, lymph node swelling.
- Fever, irritability, tiredness, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, decreased appetite, generalized rash.
- These mild reactions generally last 1 to 2 days.

Who should you report reactions to?

- Call your local public health office to report any unexpected side effects or adverse reactions at the number located below.
- If medical care is required call 811 or see your doctor or nurse practitioner.



It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine.

With any vaccine 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.

Pneumococcal Vaccine Serotypes

Vaccine	Serotypes in pneumococcal vaccines																												
	1	4	6B	9V	14	18C	19F	23F	5	7F	3	6A	19A	22F	33F	8	10A	11A	12F	15B	2	9N	17F	20	15A	16F	20A	23A	23B
PNEU-C-10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																		
PNEU-C-13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																	
PNEU-C-15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														
PNEU-C-20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
PNEU-C-21										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PNEU-P-23	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

Public Health Agency of Canada. [Part 4: Immunizing Agents Pneumococcal Vaccines]: Canadian Immunization Guide [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Government of Canada; 2025 Sept 10 [cited 2025 Dec 23]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-16-pneumococcal-vaccine.html>

For more information call

