

Pneumococcal Conjugate Pneu-C-20 Vaccine

Public Health – Fact Sheet

Immunization is one of the most important accomplishments in public health. Immunizations help eliminate and control the spread of infections and diseases. Vaccines help your immune system recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

What is pneumococcal disease?

Pneumococcal disease is an illness that is caused by the pneumococcal bacteria. The bacteria spreads from person to person. This can be through coughing, sneezing, kissing, or sharing food and other objects with the person with pneumococcal disease. Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but it is most common in the very young, very old and in people living with certain medical conditions. Pneumococcal bacteria can cause infections of the ears, sinuses and lungs. Serious infections include septicemia (an infection of the blood) and meningitis (an infection of the lining that covers the brain). Those who survive meningitis may suffer from permanent brain damage and hearing loss.

What is the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Pneu-C-20)?

There are more than 100 known types of pneumococcal bacteria. The Pneu-C-20 vaccine protects against 20 of the most common types that cause pneumococcal infections. The vaccine does not contain any live bacteria, so it cannot cause pneumococcal disease.

Who should get the Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

The Pneu-C-20 vaccine is offered free of charge as part of Manitoba's routine immunization schedule to people 65 years of age and older as well as children and adults at higher risk of pneumococcal disease due to a medical condition or other risk factors. If you have questions about your or your child(ren)'s risk of pneumococcal disease or eligibility for the Pneu-C-20 vaccine, please talk to your health-care provider or visit the website for Manitoba's Immunization Program Eligibility Criteria: www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html.

All Manitobans are eligible for a dose of Pneu-C-20 vaccine once they turn 65 years of age to prevent pneumococcal infections. Talk to your health-care provider about getting it at the same time as the influenza (flu) vaccine.

Who should NOT get the Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

Talk to your health-care provider if your child(ren):

- has (have) had a severe allergic reaction after receiving a previous dose of a pneumococcal vaccine; or
- is (are) allergic to any contents of the vaccine.

Anyone with high fever should postpone immunization until recovered. The vaccine can still be given if the illness is mild, like a cold.

What are the possible side-effects of the Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

Health Canada approves vaccines based on a review of quality and safety. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get pneumococcal disease. Common reactions to the vaccine include soreness, redness or swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children may have fever, drowsiness, fussiness, loss of appetite or an upset stomach. These are mild reactions and usually only last one to two days. Acetaminophen (ex: Tylenol®) can be given for fever or soreness.

Acetylsalicylic acid-ASA (e.g. Aspirin®) should NEVER be given to children because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye's Syndrome.

A severe allergic reaction is a serious but very rare side-effect of getting the vaccine. Symptoms could include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the

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throat and face. It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine so you or your child(ren) can be monitored. If symptoms occur after leaving the clinic, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department for immediate attention.

Report any serious or unexpected side-effects to a health-care provider.

Your record of protection

All immunizations are recorded in a person's immunization record in Manitoba's Immunization Registry.

This registry enables:

- your health-care provider to find out which immunizations you or your child(ren) have received,
- the production of immunization records or notification to you about overdue vaccines,
- public health officials to monitor how well vaccines work in preventing disease.

You can get your immunization record by submitting a request online via forms.gov.mb.ca/immunization-update-request. Your immunization record will be mailed to you. You may also be able to get a copy by:

- contacting your local public health office; or
- checking if your local medical clinic or physician's office can provide it to you; or
- asking at a local nursing station or health centre.

For a listing of public health offices please visit:
manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html

The Personal Health Information Act protects your information and/or that of your child(ren). You can have your personal health information and/or that of your child(ren) hidden from view from health care providers. For more information, please refer to manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/phims.html or contact your local public health office to speak with a public health nurse.

For more information on invasive pneumococcal disease and vaccines:

- talk to your health-care provider; or
- call Health Links–Info Santé in Winnipeg at 204-788-8200; toll free elsewhere in Manitoba 1-888-315-9257; or
- visit:

Manitoba's Immunization Program website:

manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/index.html

Government of Canada website:

- canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/vaccine-preventable-diseases/invasive-pneumococcal-disease.html
- canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization-vaccines.html