



The Pneumococcal Shot



Pneumococcal Prevention

Part of a Healthy Lifestyle.

For more information about Pneumococcal Prevention, contact the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization at (850) 245-4342, visit www.immunizeflorida.org/flu/pneumo.htm, or send an email to Immunization@doh.state.fl.us.

This document is not a complete medical guide for immunizations. Your healthcare provider will determine recommended age-appropriate immunizations based on your medical history. Visit www.cdc.gov for detailed information on vaccines.



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A foundation of health will last a lifetime.



What is Pneumococcal Disease?

Pneumococcal disease is a serious disease that can kill you. Caused by a bacterial infection, it can affect your lungs, blood, and brain. Each year, many seniors are hospitalized with pneumococcal disease.

Pneumococcal disease usually causes fever, coughing, headache, stiff neck, and confusion, or sleepiness. Diagnosing pneumococcal disease can be difficult. Your doctor can tell if you have it by doing an examination and laboratory tests on blood, sputum, or urine samples.



Learn How You Can Protect Yourself From a Leading Killer of Seniors

There is a vaccine that can help to protect you from pneumococcal disease. Ask your healthcare provider about the pneumococcal shot for adults.

Getting the shot when you're age 65 or older should protect you for the rest of your life. Some people may need a second pneumococcal shot after five years. Your doctor can tell you if you are one of those people. You can get the pneumococcal shot at any time of the year. Best of all, Medicare Part B will pay for it. The vaccine is safe and most people experience no side effects.

Risk of Pneumococcal Disease

Pneumococcal disease is especially dangerous for adults 65 and over. The risk of serious illness or death is even higher if you have a chronic illness such as:

- Lung disease (like emphysema)
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Kidney disease
- HIV infection
- Certain types of cancer