

# Pneumococcal Conjugate (Pneu-C-13) Vaccine



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## What is Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD)?

Pneumococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, often referred to as pneumococcus. It can cause many types of illnesses including infections of the ears and sinuses. It is spread from person-to-person by direct contact with respiratory secretions, like saliva or mucus. Pneumococcus can lead to more serious infections of the lungs (pneumonia), blood (sepsis) and brain (meningitis). These infections are referred to as Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD). Persons are often hospitalized and usually recover with antibiotic treatment. Occasionally, this infection can cause long-term complications or death. Anyone can get IPD, however some people are at greater risk: the very young (less than two years), the elderly and certain specific high-risk individuals.

## 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 use in individuals from six weeks of age. It is publicly funded for 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 publicly funded vaccine.\*

The vaccine is very effective (80-95 per cent) and provides long lasting protection against 13 of the most common strains of pneumococcus.

### High-risk children include those with:

- Sickle cell disease or other sickle cell disorders
- non-functioning or missing spleen
- HIV infection
- inherited immunodeficiencies that affect immune function
- 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)
- cochlear implant or those going to receive one
- malignant neoplasms including leukemia and lymphoma

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 with your health care provider or call Public Health to see if you qualify.

High-risk adults eligible for publicly funded Pneu-C-13 include those with:

- non-functioning or missing spleen
- Sickle cell disease or other sickle cell disorders
- conditions that suppress the immune system (e.g., 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
- HIV infection

### 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?

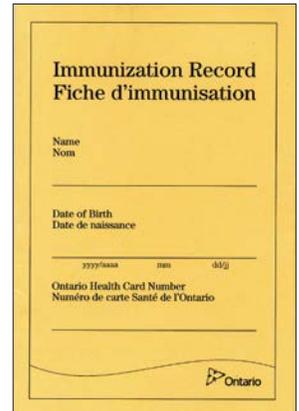
If you develop hives, swelling of the face or mouth, trouble breathing, serious drowsiness or other serious problems.

### 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 and Emergency Services

*Infectious Diseases, Dental and Sexual Health*