

Important Information about ASTHMA and Pneumococcal Disease

Talk to Your Patients about Protecting Themselves from this Dangerous Infection



Saving Lives:
Integrating
Vaccines for
Adults Into
Routine Care

- Patients with asthma are at increased risk for complications from pneumococcal disease.
 - This is true even if a patient's asthma symptoms are well controlled.
- Pneumococcal disease causes serious illnesses like pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis.
- Pneumococcal disease is serious and deadly. In the US, pneumococcal pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis kill tens of thousands each year.
- Pneumococcal disease survivors may suffer hearing loss, seizures, blindness, or paralysis.
- While it isn't completely understood why people with asthma are more likely to suffer from serious pneumococcal disease, related factors may include:
 - The correlation between respiratory infections and asthma exacerbations
 - The disrupted barrier of the airway lining, increased mucous production, and alterations in immune responses in people with asthma
 - Use of asthma medications (e.g., oral corticosteroids) that may suppress the immune system
- Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for all adults with asthma.

Adults with ASTHMA Are Among Those Who Need Pneumococcal Vaccination

There are two types of pneumococcal vaccine recommended for US adults: a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and a pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23).

Adults 65 and older, and adults age 19 to 64 years with any of the following need to receive both vaccines: immunocompromising conditions or treatments (e.g., HIV/AIDS, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin disease, radiation therapy); a damaged or missing spleen; cochlear implants; or cerebrospinal fluid leaks.

Other adults for whom pneumococcal vaccination is recommended only need PPSV23, but may need more than one dose and will need PCV13 when they, too, reach age 65. Please refer to the [Adult Pneumococcal Vaccination Guide](#) or visit cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/ for details on timing of vaccine doses.

For more information and resources to educate patients about pneumococcal disease, visit adultvaccination.org/professional-resources/pneumo