

# Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Pneu-C-13)

## Communicable Disease Control – Factsheet

Vaccination has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention. Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.

### Why should my child get Pneu-C-13?

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child against pneumococcal infection.

Pneumococcal infection can cause serious and sometimes fatal disease, including infections of the lungs (pneumonia), blood (bacteremia) and covering of the brain (meningitis). Meningitis can lead to permanent problems like deafness and brain damage.

When your child is immunized you also help protect others, because someone who is vaccinated is less likely to spread infection.

### What is pneumococcal infection?

Pneumococcal infection is caused by bacteria that can spread easily from one person to another. The bacteria normally live in fluids in the nose, mouth and throat. It is spread by coughing, sneezing, or by sharing food or drinks. Most people who carry the bacteria do not get sick, but they can still spread it to other people.

Babies and young children under five are at higher risk of becoming sick. Children may become infected by sharing soothers, bottles or toys that have been in the mouths of other children.

### What is Pneu-C-13?

There are more than 90 different types of pneumococcal bacteria. Pneu-C-13 protects against the 13 types that cause most of the severe pneumococcal infections in children. The vaccine is approved by Health Canada and is provided free by Manitoba Health as part of your child's routine immunizations.

In the summer of 2010, this vaccine replaced Pneu-C-7 (PCV7) because it protects your child against more types of pneumococcal disease. If your child has already started the pneumococcal series with Pneu-C-7 (PCV7), they can continue on the same

schedule with Pneu-C-13. For more information, talk to your doctor or public health nurse.

### Who should get Pneu-C-13?

All infants and children under two years of age should get the Pneu-C-13 vaccine. It is given as a series of four needles.

Pneu-C-13 vaccine	Child's age at vaccination
1st needle	2 months
2nd needle	4 months
3rd needle	6 months
4th needle	18 months

Children from two to five years of age should also get vaccinated with Pneu-C-13 if they have one or more of the following:

- no spleen, or a spleen that is not working properly
- sickle cell disease
- an immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment (including long-term high-dose steroid therapy)
- kidney, heart, liver or lung disease
- diabetes
- cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak
- a solid organ, or stem cell transplant
- a cochlear implant or waiting for one

Some adults and children over two years of age may need another kind of pneumococcal vaccine. It is called Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (Pneu-P-23). For more information please see the fact sheet: *Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine* (Pneu-P-23).

# Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Pneu-C-13)

---

## Who should NOT get Pneu-C-13?

Speak with a public health nurse or doctor if your child has had a serious reaction to a previous dose of any vaccine, or if your child has any severe allergies.

Your child should not get vaccinated if they have a high fever. But they can still get the Pneu-C-13 shot if they have a mild illness, like a cold.

## Possible side-effects of Pneu-C-13

Vaccines are known to be very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get pneumococcal disease.

Common reactions to the vaccine include soreness, redness and swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children may have fever, drowsiness, fussiness or a loss of appetite. These are mild reactions and usually last one to two days. Acetaminophen (Tylenol® or Tempra®) can be given for fever or soreness.

---

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

---

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is a rare possibility of a severe allergic reaction. This can include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. If this happens after you leave the clinic, **call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department for immediate treatment.**

---

**Report any serious or unexpected side effects to a public health nurse or doctor.**

---

## For more information on Pneu-C-13:

Talk to your doctor or public health nurse.

Call Health Links-Info Santé in Winnipeg at 788-8200; toll-free elsewhere in Manitoba 1-888-315-9257.

Or visit:

**Manitoba Public Health website**

[www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/index.html)

**Canadian Pediatric Society website**

[www.cps.ca/English/HealthCentres/immunization.htm](http://www.cps.ca/English/HealthCentres/immunization.htm)