



Pneumonia Fact Sheet

Pneumonia is a disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae pneumococcus*). This bacterium can cause serious infections of the lungs (pneumonia), the bloodstream (bacteremia), the covering of the brain (meningitis) and other parts of the body.

Pneumococcal pneumonia accounts for an estimated 40, 000 deaths annually. This vaccine is not made from the actual bacteria, but from a non-infectious extract. This vaccine immunizes against 23 of the most prevalent strains of pneumonia. It cannot cause pneumococcal infections.

Risks and Possible Side Effects

Pneumococcal vaccine generally causes only mild side effects that occur at low frequency. Most commonly, the reactions may be a sore or tender arm at the injection site, or possibly fever, chills, headache, or muscle aches. These effects may last 24 to 48 hours. Most people who receive the vaccine either have no or only mild reactions. There is a possibility, as with any vaccine or drug that a severe systemic reaction such as anaphylaxis, or even death could occur. Moreover, untoward medical events completely unrelated to vaccine administration may occur coincidentally in the aftermath period following vaccination. Guillain-Barre syndrome has occurred rarely in temporal association with administration of pneumococcal vaccine, but no cause and effect relationship has been established.

Do Not request pneumococcal vaccine if you:

- Have a history of neurological symptoms or ever had Guillain- Barre Syndrome
- Are under the age of 18
- Have a febrile respiratory illness or an active infection
- May be pregnant or breast feeding
- Have received a prior pneumococcal vaccination (read regarding revaccination)
- Cannot understand the consent form due to language differences

Regarding Re-Vaccination

The CDC recommends re-vaccination for anyone that has received a vaccination and 5 or more years has lapsed since their last immunization. If you have any questions, please check with a physician or your health department prior to receiving the vaccine