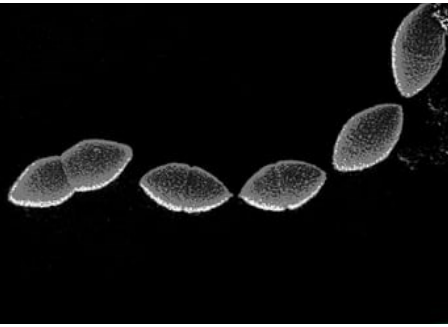


Pneumococcal Vaccine

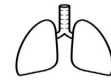
For adults

Streptococcus pneumoniae



What is pneumococcal disease?

This is caused by a bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae* which can spread through coughing or sneezing. It can lead to life-threatening illness by infecting your lungs (pneumonia), brain (meningitis) and blood (sepsis).



Hundreds of New Zealanders are hospitalized with serious pneumococcal disease every year
Make sure you're protected

Who is at risk ?

As you get older, you are more vulnerable to pneumococcal disease. You are also at risk if you have lung disease, breathe in cigarette smoke, live in a crowded, damp home or if your immune system is weakened due to things like HIV infection or a removed spleen. Maori and Pacific islanders are also at risk.

According to NZ Ministry of Health
Pneumovax23 is:

Recommended but not funded for:

- ◆ 65 years and over
- ◆ Those with chronic lung, heart, liver or kidney disease
- ◆ Diabetics
- ◆ Alcohol-dependents
- ◆ Those with diseases which compromise immunity
- ◆ Previous episode of invasive pneumococcal infection

Funded for:

- ◆ HIV positive
- ◆ Pre- and post- splenectomy
- ◆ Kidney dialysis
- ◆ Pre- or post- organ transplant
- ◆ Complement deficiency
- ◆ Cochlear implants
- ◆ Post- chemotherapy

Which Vaccines are available ?

The vaccines work by helping your body produce antibodies which fight off pneumococcal infection. The vaccine itself does not cause the infection. There are 2 types of vaccines available:

1. Prevenar 13 (\$230)

2. Pneumovax23 (\$75)

Recommended Vaccination Regime:

- For individuals 65 years and over who have not had the vaccine:

Prevenar13 → wait 8 weeks → Pneumovax23

If you can't afford both, then a single dose of Pneumovax23 still offers a few years protection against pneumococcal disease but not lifelong immunity.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION TODAY