

Are there some people who cannot get the pneumococcal vaccine?

Yes, persons who have had a previous reaction to either vaccine.

Do I need to have this vaccine more than once (re-immunization)?

Yes, persons at higher risk should have re-immunization. This is only done once and is dependant on when the vaccine was first given. Ask your doctor when re-immunization is needed.

If you or your family have any other questions or concerns, please ask your doctor or nurse. They can contact Infection Prevention and Control for more information.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Good hand washing is the most important way for everyone to prevent the spread of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease.

Handwashing

 1. Wet hands	 2. Soap	 3. Lather for 15 seconds
 4. Rinse	 5. Dry hands well with paper towel or air dryer	 6. Turn taps off with paper towel if available

Always Wash Your Hands

- before and after touching food
- after using the washroom
- after sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose
- after touching pets or handling garbage
- after outdoor activities

 TORONTO Public Health

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Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD)

Patient and Visitor Information

at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto

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Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD)

Patient and Visitor Information

What is Invasive Pneumococcal Disease?

IPD is caused by a bacteria (germ) called *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. It can cause many types of infection such as:

- Pneumonia (lower lung infection)
- Bacteremia (blood infection)
- Meningitis (brain infection)
- Otitis media (ear infection)
- Sinusitis (sinus infection)
- Other upper respiratory infections

How is IPD spread?

It is spread by direct contact between people who are ill or who carry the bacteria in their throat. The germ can also spread when a person touches an object that has germs on it and then touches their own mouth, eyes or nose before washing their hands. Wash your hands often with soap and water or with an alcohol based hand sanitizer that has alcohol content between 60-90%.

Persons at higher risk of IPD are:

- Adults 65 years and older
- Children under the age of 2 years

People 2 to 64 years old and have any of the following:

- Heart or lung disease
- Diabetes
- Alcoholism
- Liver disease
- Renal failure
- Anemia (low red blood cells)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Sickle cell disease
- Spleen removed

People more than 2 years old and have any of the following:

- HIV infection
- Leukemia
- Lymphoma
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Myeloma
- Malignancy
- Immunosuppressive therapy (transplants)
- Cancer therapy

Persons who are:

- Residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities
- Alaskan natives

- American Indians

Can IPD be prevented?

Yes, by getting a pneumococcal vaccine. There are two types of vaccines:

1. Conjugate vaccine for children less than 2 years old and children 24 to 59 months old who are in a high risk group. Children receive a series of shots. It may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

2. Polysaccharide vaccine for all persons 5 years of age and older who are in a high risk group. It should also be given to smokers. Pregnant and breast-feeding mothers may receive the vaccine. It may be given at the same time as the flu shot.

Other ways to help prevent IPD are:

- Wash your hands often, especially after coughing or touching your nose, eyes or mouth
- Keep your hands away from your nose, eyes and mouth
- Stay at home if you are sick
- Do not visit patients in the hospital if you have flu or cold symptoms.