



# Pneumococcal Vaccines

## Which Vaccine is Right for Me?

Vaccines can protect both children and adults from pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcal disease is caused by bacteria that can spread from person to person through close contact. It can cause ear infections and can lead to more serious infections of the lungs (pneumonia), blood (bacteremia) and covering of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis).

Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but children under two years of age and adults 65 years and older, people with certain medical conditions, and cigarette smokers are at the highest risk. The most important thing you can do to prevent this disease is vaccination.

Learn more about each type of vaccine below. Your VNA nurse can help you decide which vaccine is right for you.

### Prevnar 13 (PPV or PCV13)

- The vaccine called PCV13 protects against 13 types of pneumococcal bacteria
- Recommended if you have never had a pneumococcal vaccine before
- It is recommended for children and adults 2 to 64 years of age with certain health conditions including: congenital or acquired immunodeficiency, HIV, chronic renal failure, nephrotic syndrome, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin disease, sickle cell disease, cerebrospinal fluid leak and cochlear implants
- All adults 65 years and older
- Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a dose of this vaccine, to an earlier vaccine called PCV7 or any vaccine containing diphtheria toxoid (DTap) should NOT get PCV13

### Pneumovax 23 (PPSV23)

- The vaccine called PPSVS23 protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria
- Most people only need one dose. A second dose is recommended for certain high-risk groups. People 65 and old should get a dose even if they have had one or more before age 65
- It is recommended for all adults 65 years of age and older
- Anyone 2–64 years of age with certain long-term health problems and/or weakened immune system
- Anyone 19-64 years of age who smoke or have asthma
- Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to PPSV23 should NOT get another dose



### Questions?

Your VNA nurses can help you decide on which vaccine is right for you.

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