



Vax Facts January 13, 2020

Pneumococcal Vaccines in Adults Age \geq 65 Years

Background: In 2014 the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Pneumovax13[®]) in series with 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax23[®]) for all adults age \geq 65 years.

In 2019 ACIP reviewed evidence that: (a) among persons age \geq 65 years, indirect effects of routine Pneumovax13 use in children since 2010 have led to historically low levels of disease caused by the 13 pneumococcal serotypes in the vaccine; and (b) those disease levels have not been significantly improved by routine Pneumovax13 use in persons age \geq 65 years since 2014.

Recommendation: ACIP now recommends the following.

- Pneumovax13 vaccination is no longer routinely recommended for all adults age \geq 65 years.
- Patients age \geq 65 years who have an immunocompromising condition, CSF leak, or cochlear implant should still routinely receive Pneumovax13 if they have not previously received it.
- For all others age \geq 65 years, patient and provider should engage in shared clinical decision-making to determine whether Pneumovax13 should be administered. Considerations may include both the individual patient's risk for developing pneumococcal disease as a result of underlying medical conditions and the person's risk for exposure to PCV13 serotypes.
- All adults age \geq 65 years should still receive 1 dose of Pneumovax23, since it contains 11 pneumococcal serotypes not present in Pneumovax13 for which there are no indirect effects from Pneumovax13 use in children, and which still account for about a third of the pneumococcal disease burden in adults age \geq 65 years. Adults age \geq 65 years who received Pneumovax23 before age 65 years should receive 1 additional dose of Pneumovax23 at age \geq 65 years, at least 5 years after the previous dose.
- Pneumovax13 and Pneumovax23 should not be given concomitantly due to potential interference with development of immunity. The recommended intervals between Pneumovax13 and Pneumovax23 doses have not changed.

Resources:

ACIP guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6846a5.htm>.

CDPH Infographic on Timing of Pneumococcal Vaccines: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1152.pdf>

CDC *PneumoRecs* Phone App: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/pneumoapp.html>

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