



British Columbia's H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Response Plan (2009)

Pneumococcal Immunization Programs

November 10, 2009

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION

Pneumococcal vaccine is important to prevent complications of influenza. The polysaccharide vaccine contains protection against 23 strains of pneumococcus.

Pneumococcal vaccine is provided free to people who are at high risk including:

- Seniors 65 years and older.
- Residents of any age living in residential care, assisted living or other group facilities.
 - People in these two groups require only a single lifetime dose.
- Persons 2 years of age and older with the following conditions should receive one dose or shot of the vaccine, including those who have:
 - Functional or anatomic asplenia.*
 - Sickle-cell disease.*
 - Immunosuppression related to disease (e.g., HIV, lymphoma, Hodgkin's, multiple myeloma) or therapy (e.g., high dose, systemic steroids) *
 - Chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis B or hepatitis C.*

- Chronic kidney disease.*
- Chronic heart or lung disease.
- An islet cell or solid organ transplant, or a cochlear (inner ear) implant, or are waiting for one.
- A stem cell transplant.
- Diabetes, cystic fibrosis or a chronic cerebrospinal fluid leak.
- An alcohol-dependency.
- Homeless persons and injection drug users.

All infants in BC receive the conjugate pneumococcal vaccine, which is given at 2, 4 and 12 months of age. This program started in September 2003. Providers should ensure such children, including those who may have arrived in Canada after their infant and toddler years, are up to date. Children between the ages of 2 and 5 years who have not received a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine dose in the past should be given one dose.

* People in these groups should receive a second dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine 5 years after the first dose.

For full details of immunization policy in BC including recommendations for immunization of high risk children and adults against pneumococcal disease, see Section VII, Biological Products, in the [Immunization Manual](#) , or call your local health unit.