



Pneumonia Vaccine

MYTHS AND FACTS



MYTH: You can only get pneumonia from someone else who has pneumonia.

FACT: Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that you can get from someone who has viral pneumonia OR from pneumococcal bacteria. The pneumonia vaccine helps prevent pneumonia caused by the pneumococcal bacteria.

MYTH: Pneumonia is really just a bad cold.

FACT: It is much worse. The pneumococcal bacteria can also cause ear or sinus infections, hearing loss and even lead to hospitalization or death.

MYTH: A yearly pneumonia vaccine is recommended just like the flu vaccine.

FACT: The pneumonia vaccine is not a yearly vaccine. Depending on your age and medical condition, you may receive one or two doses. Your doctor will tell you how many doses you need.

MYTH: The pneumonia vaccine is only given in the fall.

FACT: Any time of year is the right time to get your first pneumonia vaccine. If you need a second dose, your doctor will tell you when.

MYTH: I can't get the vaccine if I have a minor cold or illness on the days the nursing home is giving the vaccine.

FACT: People with minor illnesses may be vaccinated. Your doctor will decide if you can get the vaccine or if it is better to reschedule for when you are feeling better.

MYTH: It is not safe to get more than one vaccine at the same time.

FACT: You can safely receive more than one vaccine at the same time. Talk with your doctor about what is best for you.

MYTH: Pneumonia vaccines are made from bacteria. The bacteria will make me sick.

FACT: Only live bacteria can make you sick. Vaccines do not contain live bacteria. These vaccines cannot cause pneumonia.



SCAN ME

Scan QR Code to view a video and learn more about vaccines.

If you are 65 or older, have certain medical conditions or smoke, you are at risk for illnesses caused by pneumococcal bacteria. Talk to your doctor and get the pneumococcal vaccine today!

Source: [Vaccine Information Statements - VISs - CDC information sheets for patients \(immunize.org\)](https://www.immunize.org)