

# VACCINE FACTS

## Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23) (Pneumovax®23)

Pneu-P-23 vaccine protects against infection caused by 23 types of the pneumococcus bacteria, Streptococcus pneumoniae.

### Who should get this vaccine? <sup>1,3</sup>

Routinely provided to all adults 65 years of age and older, and all residents of nursing homes and chronic care homes.

Also recommended for anyone 2 years of age and older in the following high risk groups:

- Chronic cerebral spinal fluid leak.
- Chronic neurological condition that may impair clearance of saliva.
- Cardiac, pulmonary, liver or kidney disease (chronic).
- Diabetes.
- Nephrotic syndrome.
- Asthma (requiring medical care in the last 12 months).
- Sickle cell.
- Anyone without a spleen or whose spleen is not working well.
- Congenital immunodeficiencies.
- Long term use of immunosuppressants.
- HIV infection.
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant.
- Malignant growths (tumours).
- Solid organ or islet transplant.
- Cochlear implant recipients.

### How well does this vaccine work? <sup>1</sup>

- 80% of healthy adults are protected with this vaccine.
- 50-80% of high risk individuals and the elderly are protected with this vaccine.
- While immunity does start to wane 5-10 years after this vaccine, a one-time booster dose is only recommended for some groups. Refer to your health care provider.

### Is there an alternative to this vaccine?

At this time there are no other ways to prevent pneumococcal disease. Hand washing and covering the mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing can help reduce the spread of disease.

## Is this vaccine safe?

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of pneumococcal disease.

If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

Common side effects of this vaccine <sup>1</sup>	Less common side effects of this vaccine <sup>1</sup>	Rare side effects of this vaccine <sup>1</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain where needle was given</li> <li>• Redness</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Low grade fever</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizures (febrile or not)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arthus-like reaction (severe pain, swelling, hard lump where needle was given, edema, haemorrhage and occasionally dead tissue)</li> <li>• Anaphylaxis</li> </ul>

## Who should not receive this vaccine?

- Anyone with an allergy to any of the vaccine components or who has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine.
- People should receive Pneu-C-13 vaccine first, followed at least 8 weeks later by Pneu-P-23. If you receive Pneu-P-23 first, you need to wait at least one year to receive Pneu-C-13.

## What is in this vaccine? <sup>1</sup>

Pneumovax®23	Also found in...
Neomycin	Antibiotics
Porcine gelatin	Lunch meats, frozen desserts

## We ask you to:

**Check:** Your child's yellow immunization card or health record.

**Contact:** Your child's family physician or health-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations.

**Share:** Visit our website to share your immunization record with us.



### References:

1. Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2019.
2. Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2019.
3. Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4th ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.