

AGAINST PNEUMOCOCCUS

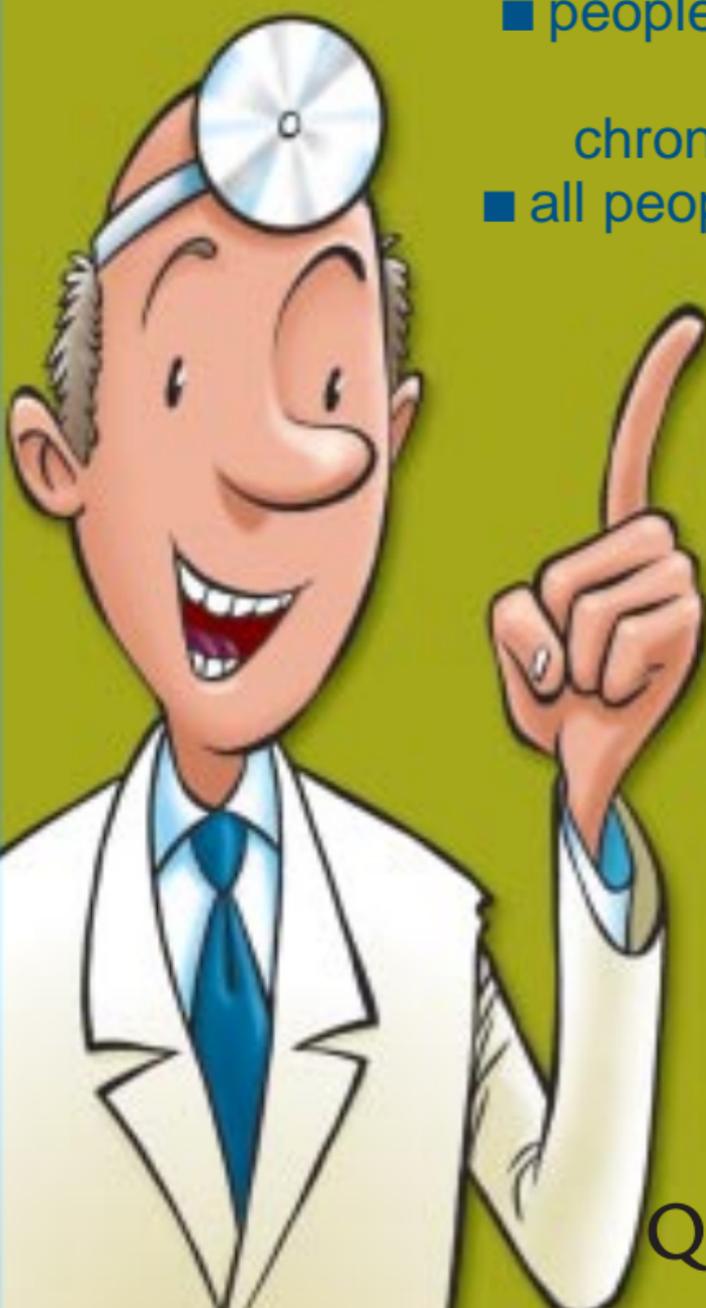
GETTING VACCINATED A CLEVER IDEA!

2003-2004 EDITION

FREE VACCINATION

against pneumococcal
infection for

- people of all ages
with certain
chronic diseases
- all people aged 65
or over



Québec 

THE RISK OF DYING FROM A SERIOUS PNEUMOCOCCAL INFECTION IS HIGHER AMONG SENIORS AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE CERTAIN CHRONIC DISEASES. VACCINATION IS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT AGAINST PNEUMOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.

WHAT IS PNEUMOCOCCUS?

Pneumococcus is a bacterium that can cause serious illnesses, including pneumonia, bacteremia (infection of the blood) and meningitis (infection of the covering of the brain). Pneumococcal pneumonia can occur following an ordinary lung infection.

PNEUMOCOCCAL INFECTION MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Serious pneumococcal infections are frequent in Québec. They cause more than 100 deaths and are responsible for more than 5000 hospital admissions each year in Québec.

Serious pneumococcal infections are also getting harder to treat, because pneumococcal bacteria are becoming more resistant to antibiotics.



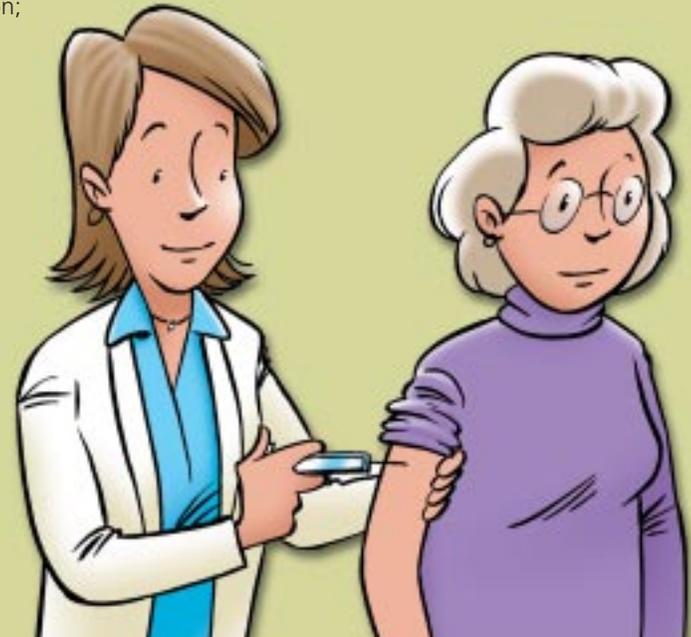
WHO CAN RECEIVE THE FREE VACCINATION AGAINST PNEUMOCOCCAL INFECTION?

The vaccination is offered free of charge to people aged 65 or over and people who have any of the following chronic conditions:

- heart disease;
- lung disease (e.g., emphysema, chronic bronchitis) except for asthma;
- kidney disease;
- diabetes;
- spleen dysfunction or no spleen;
- cirrhosis of the liver or alcoholism;
- HIV-AIDS infection;
- immune system problems (e.g., cancer).

WHEN CAN I BE VACCINATED?

You can be vaccinated at any time. If you need to go in for a flu shot, take advantage of the opportunity to get a pneumococcal shot as well.



SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE VACCINE

- Most people need to be vaccinated **only once** in their lifetime. **Keep your vaccination slip in a safe place.**
- Generally speaking, the vaccine prevents over 80% of serious pneumococcal infections. This percentage is slightly lower for people with weakened immune systems, seniors, and people with certain chronic diseases.
- The side effects of the vaccine are usually mild. Redness, swelling and tenderness at the site of the injection may occur, but usually last less than 48 hours. You may have a slight fever and some muscle soreness. These reactions usually disappear within 24 hours.
- The risk of a serious allergic reaction is very low.

READY TO BE VACCINATED?

Ask about it the next time you are at your CLSC or see your doctor.



VACCINATION IS
THE BEST WAY
TO PROTECT YOURSELF
FROM PNEUMOCOCCAL
INFECTIONS.



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