

When can you receive the vaccine?

The pneumococcus vaccine can be administered at any time of year. Ask for it when you get your flu shot or ask the doctor for it during your regular check-up.

For more information

You can find out more at your CLSC or from your doctor during your next visit. Vaccination is the best protection against pneumococcal infections. It can also help prevent certain complications associated with the flu.

Québec.ca/pneumocoque

Vaccination,
the best protection

Vaccine against Pneumococcal Infections



Vaccination is free for:

- People 65 and older
- People with certain diseases

What is pneumococcus?

Pneumococcus is a bacterium found in the respiratory tract. Many people carry the bacteria in their nose or throat without becoming ill. However, pneumococcus can sometimes cause serious infections like pneumonia, a blood infection or meningitis. A respiratory infection such as the flu, for example, can degenerate into pneumonia due to pneumococcus.

Pneumococcal infections are common in Québec. They occur throughout the year, but especially in winter and spring. Each year, serious pneumococcal infections cause 3,000 to 6,000 hospitalizations and many deaths. These infections must therefore be taken very seriously, especially since they can be difficult to treat if the bacteria are resistant to antibiotics.

What vaccines are available to prevent pneumococcal infections?

Two types of vaccines are available in Québec: the polysaccharide vaccine and the conjugate vaccine. The conjugate vaccine is administered primarily to children under 5 and the polysaccharide vaccine is given to adults.

Who can get the vaccine free of charge?

You can get the **polysaccharide** vaccine free of charge if:

- You are 65 or older
- You have one of the following illnesses:
 - Heart disease
 - Lung disease (e.g., emphysema, chronic bronchitis)
 - Asthma requiring regular medical follow-up for people aged 50 and older
 - Kidney disease
 - Diabetes
 - Poor spleen function or no spleen
 - Liver disease (e.g., hepatitis, cirrhosis, alcoholism)
 - Immune system deficiency (e.g., cancer, HIV infection)

You can also get the **conjugate** vaccine free of charge if:

- You have poor spleen function or no spleen
- You have an immune system deficiency (e.g., cancer, HIV infection)

The risk of death from a pneumococcal infection is greater for people with certain diseases and people aged 65 and over.