



# Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine Info

## Sign up for your Pneumonia vaccination today!

Call 205-978-3600 or visit  
[www.worldwidetravelvaccines.com](http://www.worldwidetravelvaccines.com)!

### Could you be at risk for Pneumococcal Disease?

Pneumococcal disease or pneumonia is a serious disease that can cause extreme illness and in some cases even death. In fact, according to the American Lung Association, pneumonia ranked as the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. Pneumonia kills more people in the United States each year than any other vaccine-preventable disease. Pneumonia was once controlled by drugs such as penicillin however; the disease has become more resistant to these once effective drugs. This makes prevention of the disease through vaccination more important.

The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria. The PPV works by exposing the individual to a small dose of the bacteria and causes the body to develop immunity to the disease. After receiving the vaccine, most healthy adults will develop protection to most or all of these types within 2 to 3 weeks.

### Who should be vaccinated?

- All Adults 65 years of age and older
- Anyone over 2 years of age who has a long-term health problem such as:
  - heart disease
  - lung disease
  - diabetes
- Anyone over 2 years of age who has a disease or condition that lowers the body's resistance to infection, such as:
  - lymphoma
  - Hodgkin's disease
  - kidney failure

### How many doses are needed?

In most cases, only one dose of PPV is needed.

- A second dose may be needed for people aged 65 and older
- A second dose is also recommended for people who:
  - have cancer
  - have kidney failure
  - have HIV infection or AIDS
- It is recommended to get the PPV every 5 years

### What are the risks from PPV?

There are little to no risks when receiving the pneumonia vaccine, most people experience mild or no side effects at all.

**\*Getting the disease is much more likely to cause serious problems than getting the vaccine.**

### Reserve PPV

- Companies that sign up for a flu clinic may also register for PPV to be done at the same time.
- Reservations for PPV can be made online the same way flu clinics are signed up.

