



Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
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## ***Health Notification***

### **Pneumococcal Vaccines – Updated Recommendations**

November 5, 2014

In August 2014, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, Prevnar-13®) for all adults 65 years or older. This dose is in addition to the existing recommendation of one dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23, Pneumovax®23).

#### **Recommendation details**

Both PCV13 and PPSV23 should be routinely administered in series to all adults 65 years or older. PCV13 should be given before PPSV23 because the optimal immune response is achieved when PCV13 is given first.

Adults 65 years of age or older who have not previously received pneumococcal vaccine - or whose previous vaccination history is unknown - should receive a dose of PCV13 first, followed 6 to 12 months later by a dose of PPSV23.

Adults 65 years of age or older who have a documented history of receiving a PPSV23 vaccine should wait a minimum of 1 year before receiving PCV13.

The two pneumococcal vaccines should not be administered at the same visit. However, patients can receive either of the pneumococcal vaccines at the same time as inactivated influenza vaccine.

Recommendations for routine use of PCV13 in adults at increased risk of pneumococcal disease have not changed.

Most adults are not aware that they need vaccines, and a healthcare provider's strong recommendation is critical in ensuring that they have the best protection against serious diseases like pneumonia.

#### **For more information**

More information about this updated pneumococcal vaccine recommendation is available in the September 19, 2014 edition of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 63(37);822-825. Read the MMWR here: <http://bit.ly/PneumoVaccines>

See the recommended adult immunization schedule here: <http://bit.ly/CDCAdultVaccines>

Learn more about the Philadelphia Immunization Program here: <http://kids.phila.gov/>

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

##### ***Updated ACIP Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations***

- Both PCV13 and PPSV23 should be routinely administered to all adults 65 years or older.
- PCV13 should be given before PPSV23.
- Adults should receive PPSV23 6 to 12 months after PCV13.
- If PPSV23 already given, PCV13 can be given at least 1 year after PPSV23 dose.

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