

What to expect after the vaccine

Some children may have discomfort, redness or swelling where the injection was given.

They may be irritable and have a raised temperature. If this happens you can give them infant paracetamol or ibuprofen.

You should also give them plenty to drink. Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.

Who should not receive PCV?

PCV is safe for most people. However, your child should not get it if they have had a true allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or any part of a vaccine.

Remember

PCV only protects against the most common strains of streptococcus pneumoniae that cause pneumococcal meningitis and septicaemia.

There are other causes of meningitis and septicaemia so you need to know the symptoms to look out for. These may include:

- fever,
- refusing food,
- pale or blotchy skin, spots or a rash, or
- drowsiness or difficulty in waking.

If you are worried about your baby, call your family doctor immediately.



For more information:

- Contact your family doctor or public health nurse.
- Get a copy of 'Your child's immunisations – a guide for parents', which is available from your public health nurse.



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immunisation



Pneumococcal vaccine

parent information leaflet



Pneumococcal vaccine Information for parents



What is pneumococcal disease?

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacteria *streptococcus pneumoniae*.

 This vaccine is available free from your GP.

How is pneumococcal disease spread?

The bacteria that cause pneumococcal disease live in the nose and throat. A person who carries the bacteria can spread the disease by coughing, sneezing or even breathing.

What illnesses does it cause?

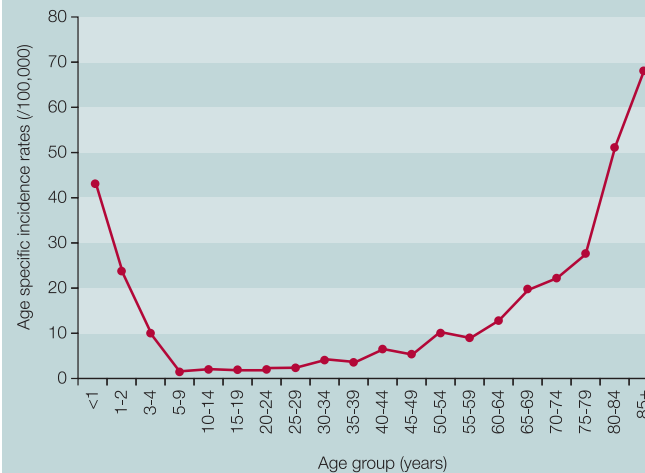
Pneumococcal disease can cause serious illnesses including:

- meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain),
- septicaemia (blood poisoning),
- pneumonia.

Who is most at risk?

Pneumococcal disease is most common in children under two and people over 65 years of age (see diagram).

Age specific incidence rates of IPD by age group, 2007 (provisional data) Source: HPSC



Is there a vaccine against pneumococcal disease?

Pneumococcal vaccine (PCV) has been given to children with special medical conditions in Ireland since 2002. Babies born on or after 1 July 2008 will get PCV at 2 and 6 months, at the same time as their other vaccines.

Is it safe to get more than one vaccine at the same time?

Yes, it is safe. The vaccines are timed to give your baby the best protection.

Does my child need a PCV booster?

To have extra protection against pneumococcal infection, your child should get a PCV booster at 12 months, at the same time as their MMR vaccine.