



Pneumococcal 20-valent conjugate vaccine (Pneu-C-20)

What is Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

Pneu-C-20 is a safe and effective vaccine that protects against 20 strains (types) of streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria that cause pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines produce a stronger immune response than pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

What are the benefits of Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

These bacteria can cause serious and life-threatening infections such as meningitis (an infection of the lining that covers the brain), septicemia (an infection of the blood), and pneumonia (an infection of the lungs).

Being vaccinated is the best way to protect you and others around you against pneumococcal infection.

How is Pneu-C-20 vaccine given?

The Pneu-C-20 vaccine is given as an injection in the upper arm in adults; and to young children in their thigh or in their upper arm.

Who should receive Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

It is provided free as part of the New Brunswick routine immunization schedule for:

- Individuals aged 65 years and over, who have never previously received a pneumococcal vaccine since turning 65 years of age.
- Individuals 18 years and over, newly admitted to long-term care facility.
- Any individuals (infants, children and adults) who have specific health and environmental conditions that place them at greater risk of pneumococcal disease.

You can ask a healthcare provider to see if you are eligible for the vaccine.

Who should not receive Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

The vaccine should not be given if you or your child:

- had a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine in the past; or
- are allergic to any of the ingredients of the vaccine or its container.

VACCINE FACT SHEET

What are the possible reactions after receiving Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

Reactions are generally mild and last one to two days. The most common reactions include soreness, redness and/or swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children may have a fever, or experience crankiness, drowsiness, or a loss of appetite.

With any vaccine there is an extremely rare possibility (less than one in a million people) of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. For this reason, it is important to remain in the clinic for 15 minutes after you or your child receives the vaccine. Signs of this reaction may include rash, difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. This reaction can be treated.

What can be done if you or your child has a reaction to the Pneu-C-20 vaccine?

- A cold compress at the injection site may reduce discomfort.
- For discomfort and fever, you can take or give your child medicine by following the manufacturer's instructions. Ask your healthcare provider what medicine is best.

Where can I get the vaccine?

Children can receive their vaccine through their [local public health office](#) or primary care provider.

Adults aged **less than 65 years of age** can contact their primary care provider.

Adults **aged 65 years of age and older** can contact their primary care provider or their local pharmacist. Please check the [list of all participating pharmacies](#) by zone.

Further information

Inform your immunization provider if you or your child has any health problems or allergies.

Your immunization provider will give you a record of your or your child's immunizations. Keep this record in a safe place and bring it with you when the next immunization is due.

If you or your child has any unusual reactions to the vaccine, or you have any questions or

concerns, please contact your primary care provider, pharmacist, [public health office](#) or Tele-Care (811).

Useful websites:

- Government of New-Brunswick [Vaccines and immunization \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada: [Vaccines for children: About vaccines - Canada.ca](#)
- Caring for kids: [Immunization | Caring for kids \(cps.ca\)](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada: [Vaccination for adults - Canada.ca](#)

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