



GET THE BASICS

HealthinAging.org

Trusted Information. Better Care.

Pneumococcal Vaccine for Older Adults (65+)

Protect yourself against pneumonia. Get a pneumococcal vaccine!

Pneumococcal bacteria cause pneumonia, a lung infection with a high rate of sickness and death in older adults. Pneumococcal bacteria can also cause ear infections, sinus infections, and meningitis.

Older adults over the age of 50 should get the pneumococcal vaccine.

The pneumococcal vaccines can prevent pneumonia. If you do get pneumonia and you are vaccinated, you are less likely to get very sick.

Two kinds of pneumococcal vaccines are available:

- Conjugate pneumococcal vaccines (PCV21, PCV20, or PCV15)
- Polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (PPSV23)

These vaccines protect against most types of pneumococcal bacteria. Ask your healthcare professional which vaccine is best for you.

Paying for the vaccine:

- If you have Medicare Part B, the vaccine is free.
- Medicaid and private health insurance plans typically cover vaccine costs.

Vaccines are available at:

- Most drug stores
- Your healthcare provider

The AGS Older Adults Vaccine Initiative is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. In this initiative, AGS leverages existing resources and ongoing investments in content and technology.



40 FULTON STREET
SUITE 809
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212.308.1414 TEL
Info@healthinaging.org

The AGS Health in Aging Foundation is dedicated to improving the health, independence, and quality of life of all older people. We aim to empower older adults and caregivers to actively participate in their health care and decision-making.

DISCLAIMER: This information is not intended to diagnose health problems or to take the place of medical advice or care you receive from your physician or other healthcare provider. Always consult your healthcare provider about your medications, symptoms, and health problems. November 2025

©2025 Health in Aging Foundation. All rights reserved.