

## What if the person to receive this vaccine is allergic to thimerosal or latex ?

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7) does not contain thimerosal. There is latex in the vaccine packaging. Talk to the public health nurse if your child has an allergy to latex.

## What to do if there is a reaction to pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7)?

- For pain or swelling where the needle was given, apply a cool damp cloth to the area.
- For pain or fever, give acetaminophen (also called Tylenol® or Tempra®) as directed on the bottle.

*NOTE: Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA or Aspirin®) is not recommended for persons 18 years of age or under because of increased risk of Reye's syndrome.*

- Call your local public health nurse if you have questions or if there is an unusual reaction to this vaccine.

## Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7) should not be given if:

- the person has had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or to a component of this vaccine.

## Where can I get more information?

Call your local health centre, public health unit or medical clinic and talk to your nurse/doctor.

You can also find information on these Internet sites:

**Department of Health and Social Services**  
[www.hltss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hltss.gov.nt.ca)

**Canadian Pediatric Society**  
[www.caringforkids.cps.ca](http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca)

*(Click on "Immunization," then on "Pneumococcal vaccine.")*

or call:

**Tele-Care NWT**  
**Toll Free - 1-888-255-1010**

For more information  
please contact your local  
health centre.

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# Pneumococcal (PCV-7) Vaccine for children



## What is pneumococcal disease?

A bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae* causes pneumococcal disease. This bacteria can cause serious infections such as meningitis, pneumonia and less serious diseases such as ear infections.

## How is it spread from person to person?

- Pneumococcal disease is spread from the nose and throat of one person to another by close, direct contact like kissing, coughing or sneezing.
- It is also spread when people share food, cups, and water bottles.

**This bacteria is becoming resistant to some antibiotics used to treat it. Prevention of pneumococcal infections is more important than ever.**

## Who is affected by the disease?

- One in 500 children experience a serious pneumococcal infection before the age of five.
- Pneumococcal disease is four to five times more common in children under two years of age than meningococcal disease.
- Although the disease can develop in all age groups, children under the age of two and the elderly are at greatest risk for serious pneumococcal disease.

## About the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7):

- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7) is 94 to 97 per cent effective in infants and children in preventing serious diseases, such as meningitis and pneumonia.
- It prevents approximately seven per cent of middle ear infections and reduces the number of ear tube placements by about 20 per cent.

## Can the infection be prevented?

Vaccination is the best way to prevent the disease.

You can also protect your child by not sharing the following:

- bottles, straws or cups;
- toothbrushes;
- food; and
- toys/soothers.

The pneumococcal vaccine is not the same as the "flu shot".

## Who should be immunized?

Infants born January 1, 2006 or later will be offered this vaccine. It is given to babies at the following ages:

Age at 1st dose	Total number of doses	Information about dosing
2-6 months	4	Give at 2, 4, 6 months Booster at 18 months
7-11 months	3	Give 2 doses 2 months apart Booster at 18 months
12-23 months	2	Give 2 doses 2 months apart

It is given at the same time as other childhood immunizations for those ages, but using a separate needle.

## Is the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7) safe?

Yes, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7) is safe. It does not contain living bacteria or viruses.

Any side effects are usually very mild, lasting 1-3 days. Side effects may include:

- redness and soreness at the site of injection;
- mild fever;
- fussiness or irritability;
- change in appetite;
- drowsiness.