

Preparing for your child's well-baby visit: PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE



BEFORE THE VISIT

What you need to know about pneumonia

Pneumococcal infections are those caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Some serious forms of pneumococcal infection include:

- Pneumonia (a lung infection)
- Meningitis (an infection of the brain's lining)
- Bacteremia (bloodstream infection)
- Ear infection
- Sinus infection
- Serious infections can result in sepsis, long-term complications, or death.

Fast facts about the pneumococcal vaccine



The pneumococcal vaccine is a 4-dose vaccine



1st dose:
2 months old



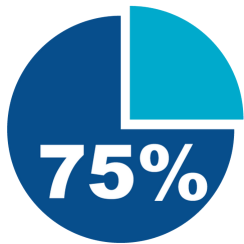
3rd dose:
6 months old



2nd dose:
4 months old



4th dose:
12-15 months



4 doses of pneumococcal vaccine can protect 75% of the time, but it can depend on risk factors and type of vaccine received.

Other vaccines may be given at the same time as the pneumococcal vaccine.

Ask your health care provider what other vaccines your child will receive at the well-baby visit so you can be prepared.

DURING THE VISIT



Keep it sweet.

Studies show something sweet can reduce pain. Ask your health care provider to give your baby a sweet solution of sucrose or glucose one to two minutes before the shot.



Breast is best.

Breastfeeding calms and helps distract your baby. Plus the close contact is very soothing. So, if you can, consider breastfeeding your baby during vaccinations.



Spray away.

Ask for a cooling spray or pain-relieving ointment, which is applied to your child's arm or leg right before vaccination. Tell your provider you want this before the visit, so they are ready for you.



Bring a friend.

Bring your child's favorite toy, blanket, or book to help them focus on something positive during the vaccination visit.



Distract your baby.

Sing or read to your child to help them focus on you instead of the vaccination.

A little planning can make a big difference in helping your child have a stress-free vaccination visit. Congratulations on protecting your child's health and future!



We know making the best health decisions for your child can sometimes be overwhelming. We're here for you.

**If you need more information, please visit
www.VoicesForVaccines.org.**

voices
for vaccines
credible vaccine information
for families, from families ♥

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER VACCINATION

Understanding normal immune responses vs. serious adverse events

Normal immune responses (sometimes called side effects) are how you know a vaccine is doing its job: your baby's immune system is recognizing an "invader" and preparing to fight it. But with a vaccine, it's a practice exercise and not the real thing so the immune response will usually be mild and go away on its own in a few days.

Some normal immune responses for the pneumococcal vaccine include:



Soreness where the vaccine was given



Mild fussiness or crying



Tiredness



Headache



Redness or swelling around the area where the vaccine was given



Fever or chills



Loss of appetite

How to treat normal immune responses

The best ways to treat normal immune responses to vaccination include:

- Apply a cold compress to the injection site for redness and swelling.
- Give your baby a pain reliever (analgesic) like Infant/Children's Motrin®, Tylenol®, or an equivalent generic. Call your healthcare provider for dosage.

When to call your healthcare provider

Severe allergic reactions occur within seconds or minutes, so in the extremely rare case that your child has a serious reaction, you will likely still be in the doctor's office. But more mild allergic reactions can happen several hours after vaccination (and rarely up to 24 hours later). If you notice an allergic reaction, you should contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Normal immune responses will usually go away within a week of vaccination. But if you are concerned, you should call your healthcare provider.

Serious adverse events

Serious issues are very rare (about 1 in 1 million) and include allergic reactions like:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face and throat
- Difficulty breathing
- A fast heartbeat
- Dizziness
- Weakness

Unlike a rash, hives are usually raised and "blotchy" with less defined edges.

Questions for your healthcare provider

Post-vaccine notes
