

# Know What's New With Pneumococcal Immunization Guidelines

You'll need to know **who should get one of the new pneumococcal vaccines, *Prevnar 20* or 15-valent *Vaxneuvance***...and when.

These conjugate vaccines may lead to longer-lasting and better immunity than *Pneumovax 23* polysaccharide vaccine.

This is leading to changes in pneumococcal guidelines.

**For adults**, give one dose of *Prevnar 20* in most cases, depending on risk factors and vaccine history...or *Vaxneuvance* PLUS *Pneumovax 23* as an alternative. After that, no boosters are needed.

Explain that *Pneumovax 23* is given in addition to *Vaxneuvance* to broaden coverage. About 15% of invasive pneumococcal disease is caused by the 5 serotypes in *Prevnar 20* that aren't in *Vaxneuvance*.

Use the table below to help keep it all straight.

Patient	Vaccine History	Recommended	Alternative
18 to 64 years with an immunocompromising condition	No prior vaccine or vaccination status unknown	One dose of <i>Prevnar 20</i>	<i>Vaxneuvance</i> followed by <i>Pneumovax 23</i> , separated by 8 weeks
50 to 64 years with risk factors (diabetes, etc)	No prior vaccine or vaccination status unknown	One dose of <i>Prevnar 20</i>	<i>Vaxneuvance</i> followed by <i>Pneumovax 23</i> , separated by 1 year
65 years and older	No prior vaccine or vaccination status unknown		
	<i>Pneumovax 23</i> at least 5 years prior		
	<i>Prevnar 13</i> and <i>Pneumovax 23</i> series at least 5 years prior		
	<i>Prevnar 13</i> at least 1 year prior		

Expect *Prevnar 20* to cost about \$120/dose and *Vaxneuvance* plus *Pneumovax 23* about \$140...but these will likely be funded provincially.

**For kids and adolescents**, give either *Prevnar 13* or *Vaxneuvance*...whichever you have in stock. It's okay to interchange these...even partway through a primary series.

Use the opportunity to give other vaccines (COVID-19, etc) with a pneumococcal vaccine if needed.

Check out our resource, *Comparison of Pneumococcal Vaccines*, to compare serotypes covered, immunity, and more.

## Key References:

-<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/public-health-level-recommendations-use-pneumococcal-vaccines-adults-including-use-15-valent-20-valent-conjugate-vaccines/recommendations-use-pneumococcal-vaccines-adults-15-20-valent-conjugate.pdf> (5-1-23)

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-<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-interim-guidance-pneumococcal-15-valent-conjugate-vaccine-pneu-c-15-pediatric-populations/national-advisory-committee-immunization-interim-guidance-pneumococcal-15-valent-conjugate-vaccine-pneu-c-15-pediatric-populations.pdf> (5-1-23)

-<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/canada-communicable-disease-report-cdr/monthly-issue/2023-49/issue-2-3-february-march-2023/naci-statement-public-health-recommendations-pneumococcal-vaccines.html> (5-1-23)

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