

Pneumonia Can Be Prevented - Vaccines Can Help

Pneumonia Prevention and Control

Key Points:

- Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs.
- Pneumonia affects millions of people worldwide each year.
- Pneumonia can often be prevented and can usually be treated.
- You can lower your risk of pneumonia with immunizations and other healthy living practices.

Overview

Immunizations and appropriate treatment (like antibiotics and antivirals) could prevent many deaths from pneumonia each year.

Pneumonia affects many adults in the United States. Most of the people affected by pneumonia in the United States are adults. CDC data show more than 41,000 people died from pneumonia in the United States during 2021.

Who is at risk

Some people are at increased risk for pneumonia due to age, other health conditions, and certain behaviors.

> KEEP READING: [Risk Factors](#)

Prevention steps and strategies - Vaccination and immunization

Vaccines against bacterial infections

Vaccines can help prevent infection by some of the bacteria that can cause pneumonia. Learn more about vaccines for each of the following bacterial infections, including who should get them:

- [Haemophilus influenzae type b \(Hib\)](#)

- [Pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#)
- [Pneumococcal](#)

Immunizations against viral infections

Vaccines, antibody products, or both can help prevent infection by some of the viruses that can cause pneumonia. Learn more about the immunization strategy for each of the following viral infections, including who should get them:

- [COVID-19](#)
- [Influenza \(flu\)](#)
- [Measles](#)
- [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#)
- [Varicella \(chickenpox\)](#)

> KEEP READING: [Safety Information by Vaccine](#)

> KEEP READING: [RSV Preventive Antibody: Immunization Information Statement](#)

Healthy living practices

Avoid people who are sick. If you are sick, stay away from others as much as possible to keep from getting them sick.

You can also help prevent respiratory infections by:

- Washing your hands regularly
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that are touched a lot
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue or into your elbow or sleeve
- Limiting contact with cigarette smoke or quitting smoking
- Taking good care of chronic medical conditions (like asthma)

Pneumonia around the world

Globally, pneumonia killed more than 740,000 children younger than 5 years old in 2019. This is greater than the number of deaths from any infectious disease, such as HIV infection, malaria, or tuberculosis.

Resources

What vaccines are recommended for you? Vaccines are recommended for adults based on age, health conditions, job, and other factors.

- [Take the adult vaccine quiz](#)
- [Preventing excessive alcohol use](#)
- [Quit smoking](#)
- [Vaccines and immunizations](#)
- [When and how to wash your hands](#)

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