Preventing Pneumococcal Disease in Adults and Children

Pneumococcal disease is a bacterial infection that can cause severe illness and is among the top 10 leading causes of death in Canada.

Complications related to pneumococcal infection include:

- Meningitis (brain infection)
- Bacteremia (bloodstream infection)
- Pneumonia (lung infection)

Children under 2 years of age, individuals with chronic health conditions, individuals with lifestyle risk factors such as smoking and adults 65 years and older are at highest risk of pneumococcal infection.

Immunization is the most effective way to prevent pneumococcal disease.

Immunization against pneumococcal disease is part of routine immunization schedules. Schedules may vary between provinces and territories.

Talk to your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or local public health office about getting immunized against pneumococcal disease.

Pneumococcal disease spreads through close contact such as kissing, sneezing, coughing, and sharing items such as toys and cigarettes.

Statistics Canada. Leading causes of death, total population, by age group. (2022.) https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310039401

Government of Canada. Canadian Immunization Guide – Part 4: Active Vaccines. (2016.)
https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-16-pneumococcal-vaccine.html

Visit our website for more information on pneumococcal disease and vaccination: https://immunize.ca/pneumococcal