

Vaccinations for Adults

You're never too old to get immunized!

Getting immunized is a lifelong, life-protecting job. Don't leave your healthcare provider's office without making sure you've had all the vaccinations you need.

Vaccine	Do you need it?
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Maybe. You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis A virus infection* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is usually given in 2 doses, 6–18 months apart.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Maybe. You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis B virus infection* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is given in 3 doses, usually over 6 months.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Maybe. You need this vaccine if you are a woman age 26 years or younger or a man age 21 years or younger. Men age 22 through 26 years with a risk condition* also need vaccination. Any man age 22 through 26 who wants to be protected from HPV may receive it, too. The vaccine is given in 3 doses over a 6-month period.
Influenza	Yes! You need a dose every fall (or winter) for your protection and for the protection of others around you.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Maybe. You need at least 1 dose of MMR if you were born in 1957 or later. You may also need a 2nd dose.*
Meningococcal (MenACWY [MCV4], MenB, MPSV4)	Maybe. You may need MenACWY and/or MenB vaccine if you have one of several health conditions, for example, if you don't have a functioning spleen. You need MenACWY if you are age 21 or younger and a first-year college student living in a residence hall and you either have never been vaccinated or were vaccinated before age 16.* You should consider MenB if you are age 23 or younger (even if you don't have a high-risk medical condition).
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax [polysaccharide vaccine, PPSV]; Prevnar [conjugate vaccine] PCV)	Maybe. If you are age 65 years (or older), you need both pneumococcal vaccines, Prevnar (if you haven't had it before) and Pneumovax. Get Prevnar first and then get Pneumovax 1 year later. If you are younger than age 65 and have certain high-risk conditions (for example, asthma, heart, lung, or kidney disease, immunosuppression, or lack of a functioning spleen, or are a smoker),* you need 1 or both vaccines. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out when you need them.*
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! All adults who have not yet received a dose of Tdap, as an adolescent or adult, need to get Tdap vaccine (the adult whooping cough vaccine). And, all women need to get a dose during each pregnancy. After that, you need a Td booster dose every 10 years. Consult your healthcare provider if you haven't had at least 3 tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing shots sometime in your life or if you have a deep or dirty wound.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Maybe. If you've never had chickenpox or were vaccinated but received only 1 dose, talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.*
Zoster (shingles)	Maybe.* If you are age 60 years or older, you should get a 1-time dose of this vaccine now.
Hib (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b)	Maybe. Some adults with certain high-risk conditions, for example, lack of a functioning spleen, need vaccination with Hib. Talk to your health care provider to find out if you need this vaccine.

* Consult your healthcare provider to determine your level of risk for infection and your need for this vaccine.

Are you planning to travel outside the United States? Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list for travel information, or consult a travel clinic.