Pneumococcal Conjugate 13 Vaccine

Keep your child and yourself safe. By getting all vaccines on time, you and your child can be protected from many vaccine preventable diseases over your lifetimes. Immunizations have saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health measure.

What is pneumococcal disease?
- Pneumococcal disease is caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria.
- It can cause serious and life-threatening infections in the lungs (pneumonia), the lining that covers the brain (meningitis) and the blood (bacteremia).
- The bacteria can also cause ear infections, sinus infections or bronchitis.
- Permanent complications include brain damage and deafness.
- For every 100 people who get sick with pneumococcal disease, up to 7 could die.
- People with certain medical conditions are also at higher risk of getting pneumococcal infections.

How can pneumococcal disease be prevented?
- Be immunized.
- When you get your child immunized, you help protect others as well.
- Practice good hygiene (e.g. handwashing).

Who can get the vaccine free of charge in Saskatchewan?
- Children between the ages of 2 months through 59 months of age.
- Individuals 5 years and older who are considered medically high risk of infection may qualify to receive the vaccine. Check with a health care provider for more information.

Who should not get the vaccine?
A mild illness, with or without a fever, is not a reason to avoid immunizations.
- Persons who have a serious illness, with or without a fever should delay immunizations.
- People who have had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine or who have serious allergies to any of the vaccine components.

Who should not get the vaccine?
Vaccines are very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get pneumococcal disease.

What are possible reactions to the vaccine?
Common reactions to the vaccine may include:
- Soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site.
- Some people may be irritable, listless or experience a fever or loss of appetite.
- These mild reactions generally last 1 to 2 days.
It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. If this happens after you leave the clinic, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number. This reaction can be treated, and occurs in less than one in one million people who get the vaccine.

Who should you report reactions to?

- Report any adverse or unexpected reactions to your local public health nurse, your doctor, or nurse practitioner as soon as possible.

Talk to your public health nurse if:

- You have questions or concerns about your or your child’s reaction to an immunization.
- You had to take your child to a doctor, hospital or health centre with an illness that might be related to an immunization.

What does the vaccine contain?

- Prevnar 13 vaccine contains 13 pneumococcal serotypes known to cause invasive pneumococcal disease. It also contains CRM197 carrier protein, sodium chloride, polysorbate 80, succinic acid and aluminum as aluminum phosphate adjuvant. The vaccine does not contain latex or thimerosal.

To ensure that a complete immunization record is maintained, every immunization administered to an individual will be documented by Public Health into the electronic provincial immunization registry, known as Panorama. Panorama is a secure electronic system used in Saskatchewan to record and manage immunization records and the health information related to immunization for all Saskatchewan residents. Your immunization records may also be shared with health care professionals in order to provide public health services; assist with diagnosis and treatment; and to control the spread of vaccine preventable diseases. More information about Panorama can be found in the fact sheet “Protecting the Privacy of Your Immunization Record”.

For more information contact your local public health office, your physician, nurse practitioner OR HealthLine at 811.