

Children medically at risk and immunisations

Children with high risk medical conditions are among the most susceptible to pneumococcal infection and influenza and are more likely to be hospitalised with severe disease and suffer poor outcomes.

Immunisation is an important, safe and effective way to reduce the risk of severe pneumococcal and influenza infection, as well as other vaccine preventable diseases.

Some of these high-risk medical conditions include:

- Children with Cystic Fibrosis
- Children with chronic heart, lung, neurological, liver or kidney conditions
- Children with haemoglobinopathies
- Children with weakened immune systems
(immunodeficiency/immunosuppressive medication)
- Children born prematurely (less than 28 weeks)
- Children with Trisomy 21
- Children with Diabetes mellitus
- Children with cochlear implants.

Pneumococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, more commonly known as pneumococcus. It is responsible for severe bacterial infections including meningitis (brain infection) and other childhood infections including middle ear infections. Influenza, commonly called “the flu”, is caused by the influenza virus and can easily spread within families and the community. Although some may only get a fever and sore throat, others can develop severe pneumonia (lung infection), meningitis (brain infection) and life-threatening sepsis (blood stream infection).

Which immunisations should my child receive, if they are medically at risk?

Children who are medically at-risk require additional pneumococcal vaccines, as listed below, as well as a **yearly** flu vaccine, in addition to receiving timely immunisations on the standard WA schedule (all of these vaccines are provided free).

NAME:	DATE OF BIRTH:
<p>✓ Yearly flu vaccine from six months of age: If 1st time receiving flu vaccine and less than nine years of age, two flu vaccines are recommended, 4 weeks apart, and then once yearly thereafter</p> <p>Date given: Date given: Date given: Date given:</p>	
<p>Additional Prevenar13 vaccine: For children under 12 months of age ensure the additional dose is given at 6 months of age OR for those 12 months or older who have not received this additional dose of Prevenar13, a further dose is to be given</p> <p>Date given: Date given: Date given: Date given:</p>	
<p>Pneumovax23 vaccine (Dose 1): Given at 4 years of age OR if older than 4 years, give at least 2 months after receiving the last dose of Prevenar13</p> <p>Date given:</p>	
<p>Pneumovax23 vaccine (Dose 2): Given 5 years after first Pneumovax23</p> <p>Date given:</p>	

Where can we get these recommended immunisations?

Visit the PCH Immunisation Drop-in Centre, Level 1, clinic area D, week days 8.30am to 4pm (**free of charge, no appointment or referral required**). Alternatively visit your local immunisation provider or GP. Email PCH.ImmunisationCentre@health.wa.gov.au or phone 6456 2222 for further advice.



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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