



## ADULT VACCINATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

# PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES PREVENT SERIOUS ILLNESSES AND SAVE LIVES

Working-Age Adults Who Smoke Or Have Certain Health Conditions And Nearly All Retirees Should Be Immunized

### REDUCE YOUR RISK

The bacterium *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* – commonly called pneumococcus – is a significant cause of serious illnesses and death. It causes respiratory diseases (about half of all U.S. pneumonia cases), blood infections (sepsis), and meningitis, leading to hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations annually. Pneumococcal diseases weaken the immune system and can cause severe complications for people suffering from other conditions.\*

Pneumococcal vaccines give safe, strong protection against these threats and their high costs of treatment, yet U.S. adult vaccination rates are far below the target set by the Department of Health and Human Services. The good news is, we do a pretty good job of immunizing our kids against pneumococcus and

MORE >>

### DID YOU KNOW?

Today, pneumonia and flu together are the eighth-leading cause of death in the USA. In a study of adults over age 50, the annual direct economic burden of pneumococcal diseases was \$3.7 billion.\*\*

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C A M P A I G N

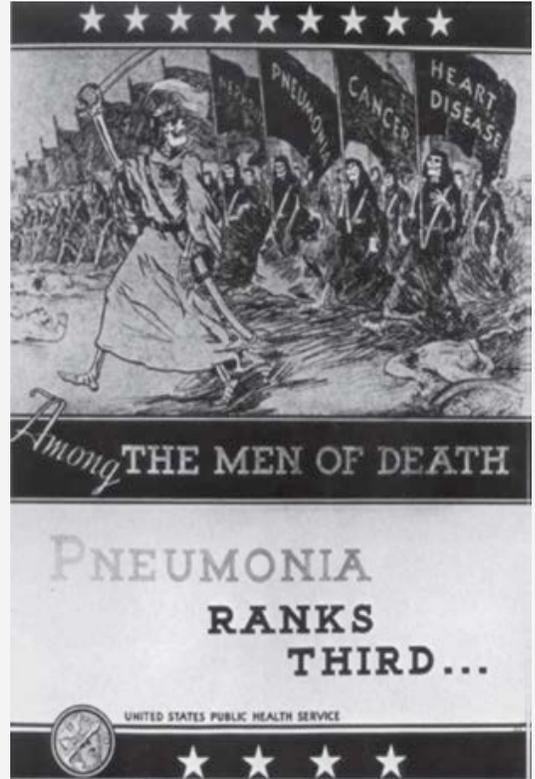


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the other vaccine-preventable diseases. The bad news is, an estimated 70+ million adults indicated for a pneumococcal vaccine to guard against certain health and age-related risks have not yet received it.\*\*

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has called adult pneumococcal vaccination coverage rates “unacceptably low.”** CDC statistics show that only one out of five working-age Americans with associated health risks (including diabetes, heart disease, liver disease, kidney disease, and other serious conditions) has been vaccinated against pneumococcal disease, and that four out of 10 adults over age 65 still need to be vaccinated. In addition, CDC recommends that adults who smoke, have asthma, or suffer from COPD should also be vaccinated.

**Pneumococcal vaccines can be given at any time of the year.** There are two kinds of pneumococcal vaccine. If your physician says you should get a pneumococcal vaccination, national practice guidelines allow you to receive it at the same time that you get your flu shot (one in one arm, and one in the other).



U.S. Public Health Service Poster from the 1930s

**Talk to your health care provider to find out if you are current on your vaccinations, and to your health care plan if you have questions about coverage for vaccinations.**

**DON'T WAIT – VACCINATE!**

\* Information on pneumococcal disease and vaccination at <http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/>

\*\* <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20576535>

\*\*\*Illustrative Information compiled from CDC statistics by National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

ALL-VAX provides multiemployer funds with tools to help raise awareness about the benefits of adult immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. Go to [www.ALL-VAX.org](http://www.ALL-VAX.org). ALL-VAX is part of NCCMP's UNITED FOR HEALTHY LIVING CAMPAIGN.

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