

Vaccinations for Adults

You're never too old to get vaccinated!

Getting vaccinated 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* 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* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is given in 2 or 3 doses, depending on the brand.
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 healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Yes! You should get this vaccine if you are age 26 years or younger. Adults age 27 through 45 may also be vaccinated after a discussion with their healthcare provider. The vaccine is usually 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 vaccine if you were born in 1957 or later. You may also need a second dose if you are a healthcare worker or traveling internationally. However, people with weakened immune systems should not get MMR.*
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)	Maybe. You may need MenACWY vaccine if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you don't have a functioning spleen, and also boosters if your risk is ongoing. 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.
Meningococcal B (MenB)	Maybe. You need MenB if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen, and also boosters if your risk is ongoing. You may also consider getting the MenB vaccine if you are age 23 or younger (even if you don't have a high-risk medical condition) after a discussion with your healthcare provider.
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax 23, PPSV23; Prevnar 13, PCV13)	Yes! If you are younger than age 65 and have a certain high-risk condition (for example, asthma, heart, lung, or kidney disease, immunosuppression, or you lack a functioning spleen or are a smoker),* you need 1 or both vaccines. At age 65 (or older), you will need PPSV23 and you may also be given PCV13 (if you haven't had it before) after a discussion with your healthcare provider.*
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! If you have not received a dose of Tdap during your lifetime, you need to get a Tdap shot now (the adult whooping cough vaccine). And all women need to get a dose during each pregnancy. After that, you need a Td or Tdap 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, never were vaccinated, or were vaccinated but received only 1 dose, talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.*
Zoster (shingles)	Yes! If you are age 50 or older, you should get the 2-dose series of the Shingrix brand of shingles vaccine, even if you already were vaccinated with Zostavax.

* 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.