

## **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine: What you need to know**

### **1. Why get vaccinated?**

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (called PCV13) is recommended to protect infants and toddlers, and some older children and adults with certain health conditions, from pneumococcal disease.

Pneumococcal infections can be hard to treat because some strains are resistant to antibiotics. This makes prevention through vaccination even more important.

### **2. PCV13 vaccine**

There are more than 90 types of pneumococcal bacteria. PCV13 protects against 13 of them. These 13 strains cause most severe infections in children and about half of infections in adults.

### **3. Precautions**

Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a dose of this vaccine, to an earlier pneumococcal vaccine called PCV7, or to any vaccine containing diphtheria toxoid (for example, DTaP), should not get PCV13.

Anyone with a severe allergy to any component of PCV13 should not get the vaccine.

### **4. What are the risks of PCV13 vaccine?**

Adults receiving the vaccine have reported redness, pain, and swelling where the shot was given. Mild fever, fatigue, headache, chills, or muscle pain have also been reported.

### **5. What if there is a serious reaction?**

- Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or behavior changes.