

If you have HIV infection, which vaccinations do you need?



The chart below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

Influenza	<i>Yes!</i> You should get vaccinated against influenza each fall (or winter).
Pneumococcal	<i>Yes!</i> This vaccine is specifically recommended for you because of your HIV infection. If you haven't been vaccinated, you should get 1 dose now. If you were vaccinated when you were younger than age 65 and you are 65 years or older now, you should get another dose now, provided at least 5 years have passed since your first dose.
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Td, Tdap)	<i>Yes!</i> If you haven't had at least 3 doses of tetanus-and-diphtheria-containing shots sometime in your life, you need to start or complete a 3-dose series now. Start with dose #1, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 in 6 months. You'll also need a Td booster dose every 10 years. If you're younger than 65 years, your next booster dose should also contain pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine—known as Tdap. Be sure to consult your healthcare provider any time you get a deep or dirty wound.
Hepatitis A (HepA)	<i>Maybe.</i> You may be at higher risk for hepatitis A virus infection if you meet certain criteria (e.g., plan to travel outside the U.S. [except for Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Western Europe], are a man who has sex with men, are an injecting drug user). If you have any of the risk factors listed above or, if you simply want the assurance of being protected against hepatitis A, you'll need 2 doses of this vaccine, spaced 6–18 months apart. Discuss your need for a screening blood test with your healthcare provider.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	<i>Yes.</i> Because you are HIV positive, you are at higher risk for hepatitis B virus infection. If you haven't had a series of hepatitis B vaccinations, you need 3 doses of this vaccine. Start with dose #1 now, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 approximately 5 months later. If you started the 3-dose series earlier but didn't complete it, you can simply continue from where you left off. Discuss your need for screening blood tests with your healthcare provider.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	<i>Yes (for some)!</i> If you are a young woman age 26 years or younger, you should get HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and genital warts. One brand, Gardasil, can be given to men age 26 years or younger to prevent genital warts. The vaccine is given in 3 doses over 6 months.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	<i>Maybe.</i> Most adults are already protected because they got MMR vaccine as children or had measles, mumps, and rubella. If you weren't previously protected, were born in 1957 or later, and have no HIV symptoms or only mild symptoms, you need at least 1 dose of MMR. If you have moderate or severe symptoms from HIV, you should not receive MMR. If you are exposed to measles, call your healthcare provider right away. If you get measles, you are at risk of developing severe complications because of your HIV infection.
Meningococcal	<i>Maybe.</i> Because of your HIV infection, you may be at increased risk for meningococcal disease, a rare but sometimes fatal bacterial infection. Talk to your healthcare provider about getting vaccinated against this disease.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	<i>Maybe.</i> Most adults are already protected because they had chickenpox as children. However, if you are an adult born in the U.S. in 1980 or later, have no HIV symptoms or only mild symptoms, and have never had chickenpox or the vaccine, you can be vaccinated with this 2-dose series. Talk to your healthcare provider.
Zoster (Shingles)	<i>Maybe.</i> This vaccine is recommended for adults ages 60 years and older to prevent shingles. If you have any symptoms of HIV, you should not be vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider.

Do you travel outside the United States? If so, you may need additional vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information to assist travelers and their healthcare providers in deciding the vaccines, medications, and other measures necessary to prevent illness and injury during international travel. Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/travel or call (800) CDC-INFO ((800) 232-4636). You may also consult a travel clinic or your healthcare professional.