# Vaccinations for Adults without a Spleen

*The table below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health if you do not have a functioning spleen. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.*

| Vaccine | Do you need it? |
|---|---|
| **Hepatitis A** (HepA) | ***Maybe.*** You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis A virus infection* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is usually given in 2 doses, 6 months apart. |
| **Hepatitis B** (HepB) | ***Maybe.*** You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis B virus infection* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is given in 3 doses, usually over 6 months. |
| **Hib** *(Haemophilus influenzae type b)* | ***Yes!*** You are at increased risk for Hib disease because you do not have a functioning spleen. If you have never received Hib vaccination (or don't know if you received it) you should receive 1 dose now. |
| **Human papillomavirus** (HPV) | ***Maybe.*** You need this vaccine if you are a woman age 26 or younger or a man age 21 or younger. Men age 22 through 26 with a risk condition* also need vaccination. Any man age 22 through 26 who wants to be protected from HPV may receive it, too. The vaccine is given in 3 doses over a 6-month period. |
| **Influenza** | ***Yes!*** You need a flu shot every fall (or winter) for your protection and for the protection of others around you. |
| **Measles, mumps, rubella** (MMR) | ***Maybe.*** Most adults are already protected because they got MMR vaccine or were infected with measles, mumps, and rubella as children. If you weren't previously vaccinated or were born in 1957 or later, you need at least 1 dose of MMR. Some people, such as international travelers and people who work in health care, need a second dose about a month after the first dose.* |
| **Meningococcal** (MenACWY [MCV4], MenB) | ***Yes!*** You are at increased risk for meningococcal disease because you do not have a functioning spleen. If you have never received MenACWY vaccine, you should receive 2 doses separated by 8 weeks, then a booster dose every 5 years thereafter. You also need to complete a series of MenB, 2 or 3 doses, depending on the brand. |
| **Pneumococcal** (Prevnar [conjugate vaccine, PCV]; Pneumovax [polysaccharide vaccine, PPSV]) | ***Yes!*** Both types of pneumococcal vaccine (Prevnar and Pneumovax) are recommended for you because you do not have a functioning spleen. If you haven't received both vaccines, call your healthcare provider and schedule them now. The dose of Prevnar is given first, followed by 1 dose of Pneumovax at least 8 weeks later. You will need a booster dose of Pneumovax 5 years after your first dose. Additionally, if you received 1 or 2 doses of Pneumovax when you were younger than age 65, you will need another dose at age 65 or older, provided at least 5 years have passed since your previous dose of Pneumovax. |
| **Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis)** (Tdap, Td) | ***Yes!*** All adults need to get a 1-time dose of Tdap vaccine (the adult whooping cough vaccine) and women need to get a dose during each pregnancy. After that, you need a Td 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.*** 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 and have never had chickenpox or the vaccine, you can be vaccinated with this 2-dose series. Talk to your health care provider. |
| **Zoster** (shingles) | ***Maybe.**** If you are age 60 years and older, you should get a 1-time dose of this vaccine now. |

* 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.

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Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Saint Paul, Minnesota ▪ 651-647-9009 ▪ www.immunize.org ▪ www.vaccineinformation.org

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4047.pdf ▪ Item #P4047 (3/16)