

Vaccinations for Men Who Have Sex with Men

The table below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health if you are a man who has sex with other men. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

Vaccine	Do you need it?
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Yes! Men who have sex with men need this vaccine to provide protection against hepatitis A virus, a serious infection of the liver that can be fatal. The vaccine is usually given in 2 doses, 6–18 months apart.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Yes! Because you have sex with other men, you are at higher risk for hepatitis B. If you haven't had a series of hepatitis B vaccinations, you need to get either a 2- or 3-dose series, depending on the brand. If you started a series earlier but didn't complete it, you can simply continue from where you left off. Ask your healthcare provider if you need screening blood tests for hepatitis B.
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! Men who have sex with men are at high risk for infection with HPV. You should be vaccinated against HPV if you are age 26 or younger. Adults age 27 through 45 may also be vaccinated against HPV 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.*
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)	Maybe. You may need MenACWY vaccine if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen, and 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 may need MenB vaccine if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen, and 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; Pevnar 13, PCV13)	Yes! If you are age 65 (or older), you need a dose of Pneumovax. At that time, you and your healthcare provider may also decide that you would benefit from a dose of Pevnar if you haven't received it previously. 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. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out when you need them.
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 Tdap or 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. 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 were already 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.