

What You Need to Know About Heart Disease and Adult Vaccines

Each year thousands of adults in the United States get sick from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines — some people are hospitalized, and some even die. People with heart disease and those who have suffered stroke are at higher risk for serious problems from certain diseases. **Getting vaccinated is an important step in staying healthy.**

Why Vaccines are Important for You

- Heart disease can make it harder for you to fight off certain diseases or make it more likely that you will have serious complications from certain diseases.
- Some vaccine-preventable diseases, like the flu, can increase the risk of another heart attack.
- Immunization provides the best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Vaccines are one of the safest ways for you to protect your health, even if you are taking prescription medications. Vaccine side effects are usually mild and go away on their own. Severe side effects are very rare.

Getting Vaccinated

You may regularly see a cardiologist, or your primary care provider. Either is a great place to start! If your healthcare professional does not offer the vaccines you need, ask for a referral so you can get the vaccines elsewhere.

Adults can get vaccines at doctors' offices, pharmacies, workplaces, community health clinics, health departments, and other locations. To find a place near you to get a vaccine, go to <http://vaccine.healthmap.org>.

Most health insurance plans cover recommended vaccines. Check with your insurance provider for details and for a list of vaccine providers covered by your plan. If you do not have health insurance, visit www.healthcare.gov to learn more about health insurance options.

For more information on vaccines or to take an adult vaccine quiz to find out which vaccines you might need, go to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults.



What vaccines do you need?

- **Flu vaccine** every year to protect against seasonal flu
- **Pneumococcal vaccines** to protect against serious pneumococcal diseases
- **Tdap vaccine** to protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough)
- **Zoster vaccine** to protect against shingles if you are 60 years or older

There may be other vaccines recommended for you so be sure to talk with your healthcare professional.

DON'T WAIT. VACCINATE!



U.S. Department of
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