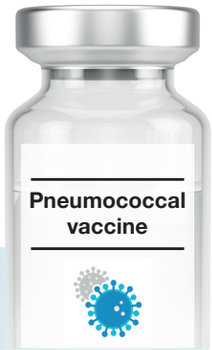
UK Health Security Agency

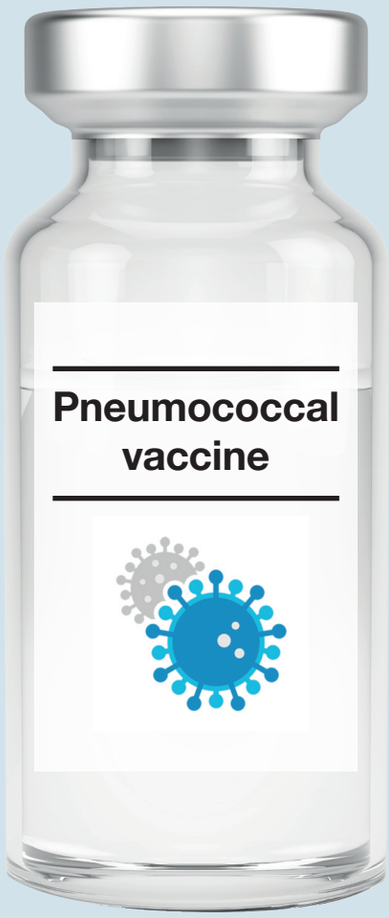
NHS



Easy read guide to the pneumococcal vaccine

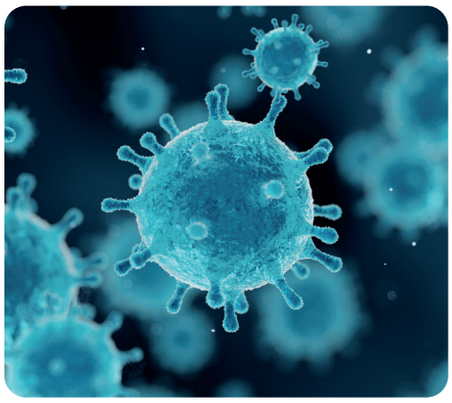
A vaccine to help stop you getting ill from pneumonia and meningitis





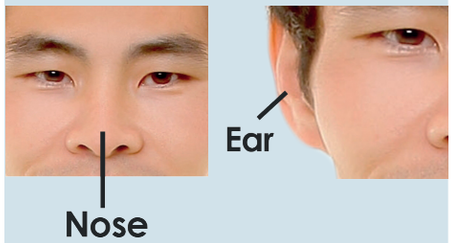
Pneumococcal vaccine:
a vaccine to help stop you getting ill from pneumonia and meningitis

What is a pneumococcal infection?



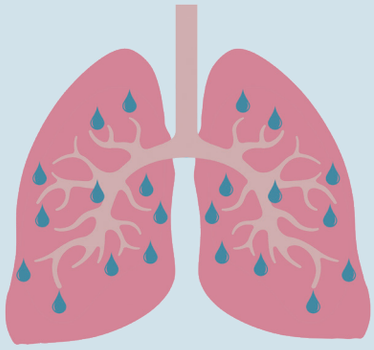
The pneumococcal infection is caused by bacteria. Infection is when bacteria gets in your body

Bacteria are tiny bugs that can make people ill

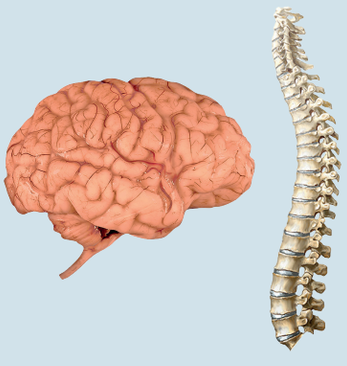


The infection can cause illnesses like bronchitis, ear and sinus infections

It can also cause serious illnesses, such as pneumonia and meningitis



Pneumonia is an infection of the lung



Meningitis is a serious illness which affects your brain and spinal cord

Who can get a pneumococcal infection?



Anyone can get a pneumococcal infection



People who are more likely to get the infection are:

children under 2 years old



people aged 65 years or over



people who work with metal fumes, like a welder



people with a long-term health illnesses



people who are homeless



Some adults and children carry the bacteria in the back of their nose and throat

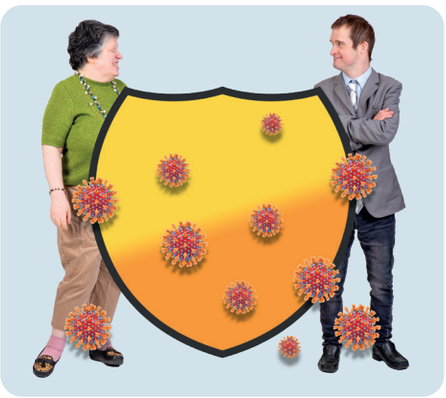


You can pass the bacteria around by coughing, sneezing and getting close to other people

The pneumococcal vaccine



The pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against a pneumococcal infection



A vaccine is a medicine that helps people fight off serious disease. You might hear people talk about a vaccine as a jab or an injection



The vaccine is the safest and best way to protect yourself from infections caused by the most common pneumococcal bacteria

The vaccine cannot cause an infection



If you are not sure whether you should get the vaccine, ask your GP or practice nurse

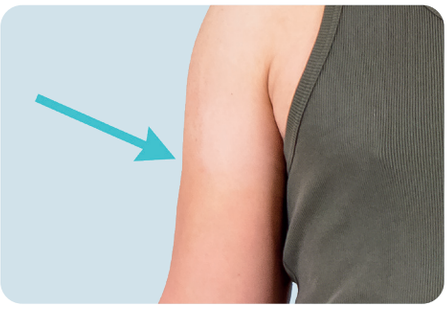
Side effects



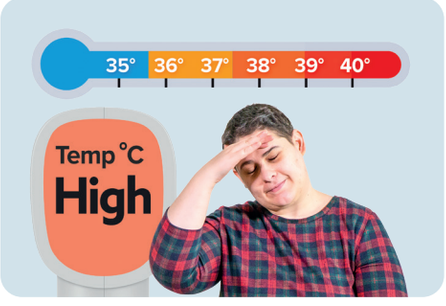
If you get any side effects they are usually mild and go away within a few days

Side effects are how you might feel after getting a medicine like a vaccine

You might get:



a lump or it may feel sore where you got the vaccine



a fever, temperature above 37.8°C



If you feel unwell, you should rest and take paracetamol if you can. Check with someone if you are not sure and always make sure you follow the information on the box



You should feel better soon after



You can report side effects of vaccines and medicines by going to this website **yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk**

Or by calling the Yellow Card hotline on 0808 100 3352



UK Health Security Agency

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