

Hepatitis A

- Vaccination protects against infection with Hepatitis A, a highly contagious liver infection that is contracted through the fecal-oral route
- Hepatitis A outbreaks and infections occur in the US
- Hepatitis A can cause severe acute illness; it does not become chronic

About the Vaccine

- People experiencing homelessness, people who use drugs, and those with chronic liver disease (including Hep C) and /or HIV are among those who should be vaccinated against hepatitis A
- The vaccine can be given within 2 weeks of an exposure to hepatitis A to prevent illness

Considerations

- Can be given at the same time as other vaccines
- Series of 2 shots with the 2nd shot given at least 6 months after the first; it is ok if the second dose is delayed
- People may experience pain at injection site, fatigue, low fever, headache, nausea, decreased appetite after the vaccine

Hepatitis B

- Vaccination protects against infection with hepatitis B, a liver infection that can be spread through blood, semen, other body fluids, and from mother to baby at birth
- Hepatitis B can become chronic and cause liver disease and cancer

About the Vaccine

- Hepatitis B is given as part of pediatric vaccines
- If not vaccinated as a child, adults should be vaccinated against hepatitis B
- The vaccine is given as a series of 2-4 shots, usually at 0, 1, and 6 months

Considerations

- Can be given at the same time as other vaccines
- If a dose is missed, the person should get the dose as soon as possible. The series does not need to be restarted.
- People may experience pain at injection site or fever after the vaccine

Twinrix

- Twinrix is a combination vaccine that provides protection against both hepatitis A and hepatitis B

About the Vaccine

- This vaccine is good for people who need both hepatitis A and B vaccination.
- It is given as a series of 3 shots at 0, 1, and 6 months

Considerations

- If a dose is missed, the person should get the dose as soon as possible; the series does not have to be restarted
- Can be given at the same time as other vaccines
- People may experience pain at injection site, fever, fatigue, nausea, decreased appetite, or headache after getting Twinrix

Tdap

- Tetanus is an infection that can cause painful muscle stiffness, “lock jaw”
- Diphtheria is an infection that can cause difficulty breathing, heart problems, and even death
- Pertussis is also known as whooping cough and can cause severe illness, especially in infants

About the Vaccine

- Tdap is administered every 10 years to adults
- Tdap is recommended for people who are pregnant
- Tdap is sometimes given as a booster after someone gets a “dirty” cut or puncture wound

Considerations

- Can be administered with other vaccines
- People may experience pain at the injection site, headache, fatigue, fever, nausea, and vomiting after getting the Tdap vaccine
- Receiving an extra dose, for example if someone gets a cut and can't remember if they were vaccinated, is not harmful

Influenza

- The influenza, or “flu” vaccine, protects against infection with any number of strains of influenza
- CDC estimates that flu has resulted in 9 million – 41 million illnesses, 140,000 – 710,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 – 52,000 deaths annually between 2010 and 2020

About the Vaccine

- The flu vaccine is adapted annually to respond to the flu strains expected to be circulating
- All adults should get the flu vaccine yearly before every flu season

Considerations

- The flu vaccine cannot make someone sick or give them the flu
- The flu vaccine can cause mild flu-like symptoms for 1-2 days
- Can be given with other vaccines

Pneumococcal

- The pneumococcal vaccine protects against infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria
- These bacteria can cause pneumonia but also ear, sinus, blood, and other infections.

About the Vaccine

- People over the age of 65 and people ages 19-64 with certain risk factors should get pneumococcal vaccine
- Risk factors include smoking, lung, liver, or heart disease, diabetes, HIV
- The vaccine is given as 1 or 2 doses and may be repeated once over age 65, may be repeated every 5 years for some people

Considerations

- Can be administered with other vaccines
- People may experience pain at the injection site, fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, and chills after receiving the pneumococcal vaccine

Shingles

- Shingles is caused by varicella zoster virus, the same virus that causes chicken pox
- Shingles occurs when the virus, which remains dormant in the body after chicken pox infection, becomes active again
- The shingles vaccine prevents zoster from reactivating
- People with shingles can spread zoster virus to unvaccinated people, causing chicken pox (not shingles)

About the Vaccine

- The recommended shingles vaccine is now Shingrix, an inactive (not live) vaccine that became available in 2017
- The vaccine is given as two doses, 2-6 months apart to adults over 50 and people who are immunocompromised
- People should get the shingles vaccine even if they can't remember having chicken pox, had the chicken pox vaccine, or have had shingles already

Considerations

- If a dose is missed it should be given as soon as possible; the vaccine series does not have to be restarted
- Can be given with other vaccines
- Do not get the vaccine while you have shingles or are pregnant
- People may experience pain at the injection site, fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, nausea/stomach pain, and chills after receiving the shingles vaccine

Resources

- Vaccine Information Statements: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>
- CDC Vaccine Information for Adults: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/index.html>
- Paying for Vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/pay-for-vaccines.html> and <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/get-vaccinated/pay/index.html>
- How Vaccines Work: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/understanding-vacc-work.html> and <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/basics/work/prevention/index.html>