

Why might some adults need vaccines?

Some adults incorrectly assume that the vaccines they received as children will protect them for the rest of their lives. Generally this is true, except that:

- Some adults were never vaccinated as children
- Newer vaccines were not available when some adults were children
- Immunity can begin to fade over time
- As we age, we become more susceptible to serious disease caused by common infections (e.g., flu, pneumococcus)

Consult the [Adult Vaccine Preventable Diseases](#) page to learn about each disease. It includes a short description, symptoms, complications, transmission, **and whether or not you need the vaccine as an adult.**

Descriptions of Vaccine-preventable Diseases

The following is a list of diseases that can be prevented by immunization. Some immunizations are vital for most adults, especially senior citizens. Others are appropriate for only certain people.

Especially Serious Diseases for Adults age 65 or older:

[Diphtheria](#) | [Influenza](#) (flu) | [Pneumococcus](#) | [Tetanus](#) (lockjaw)

Short descriptions of vaccine-preventable child diseases:

- [Diphtheria](#)
- [Haemophilus influenzae type b](#) (Hib)
- [Hepatitis A](#)
- [Hepatitis B](#)
- [Herpes Zoster](#) (Shingles)
- [Human Papillomavirus](#) (HPV)
- [Influenza](#)
- [Measles](#)
- [Meningococcal](#)
- [Mumps](#)
- [Pertussis](#) (whooping cough)
- [Pneumococcus](#)
- [Polio](#)
- [Rubella](#) (German measles)
- [Tetanus](#) (lockjaw)
- [Varicella](#) (chickenpox)

Shingles Vaccine link:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/shingles/vac-faqs.htm>

Adult recommended Immunization schedule: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm>