

RECOMMENDED VACCINES
























FOR
PEOPLE
LIVING
WITH HIV



ImmunizeBC

RECOMMENDED VACCINES FOR ADULTS LIVING WITH HIV

Talk to your primary care provider or HIV specialist to find out what vaccines you need based on your immunization history.

 VACCINES	Recommended: FREE	Recommended: For Purchase	Available For Purchase
CHICKENPOX Live vaccine	As determined by your primary care provider or HIV specialist		
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZA TYPE B	 1 dose		
HEPATITIS A	   3 dose series		
HEPATITIS B	   /  3 or 4 higher dose series		
HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV 9)	   3 dose series ≤ 26 years of age	   3 dose series Women ≤ 45 years of age Men ≥ 27 years of age who have sex with men	   3 dose series Women ≥ 46 years of age Men ≥ 27 years of age
MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES		Men-C-ACYW	4CMenB
INACTIVATED INFLUENZA	 1 dose every year		
MEASLES, MUMPS RUBELLA Live vaccine	As determined by your primary care provider or HIV specialist		
PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE-13	 1 dose		
PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE-23	 1 dose Repeat 5 years later		
TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS (Td, Tdap)	 Td every 10 years	 Tdap once as an adult	
COVID-19:	Go to immunizebc.ca/covid-19 for more information.		
SHINGLES:	As determined by your primary care provider or HIV specialist.		
TRAVEL VACCINES:	Varies by destination. Talk to your primary care provider or HIV specialist. Available for purchase from travel clinics and most pharmacies.		

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT VACCINES



Q: Is it important for me to get vaccinated?

Yes. Vaccines protect you against serious and sometimes deadly diseases. Vaccination is especially important for people living with HIV. HIV can make it harder for you to fight off diseases vaccines prevent, like influenza (flu) and can increase your chance of having serious complications from those diseases.

Q: My viral load is undetectable. Do I need vaccines?

Yes. Even with effective HIV treatment, people living with HIV can still be at higher risk of getting really sick and having serious complications from many vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccination is your best protection against those diseases.

Q: Do vaccines work?

Yes. Vaccines are very effective. They protect you and the people around you.

Vaccines might not work as well in people with very weak immune systems because their immune response is not as strong. In general, people living with HIV with higher CD4 counts tend to have a stronger immune response to vaccines.

Q: Are vaccines safe for people living with HIV?

A. Inactivated vaccines are generally safe for people living with HIV. These vaccines are made from a killed version of the disease-causing germ and cannot cause the disease, even in people with weak immune systems.

Live vaccines (e.g. chickenpox, MMR) are safe for most people, but they must be used with caution in people living with HIV. These vaccines are made from a weakened version of the disease-causing germ and could cause disease in people with very weak immune systems.

Q: Do I need an influenza vaccine every year?

Yes. People living with HIV are at higher risk of getting really sick and developing serious complications from influenza. Unlike other vaccines, you need an influenza vaccine every year. Influenza viruses are constantly changing, so each year, there is a new vaccine to protect you against the viruses circulating that year. People living with HIV should get the inactivated (non-live) influenza vaccine.

Q: Can vaccines cause side effects?

Yes. Vaccines can cause side effects. Side effects from vaccines are usually minor (for example, soreness, redness, or swelling at the injection site and fever) and go away within a few days. Serious side effects are very rare. Many people have no side effects from vaccines.

QUESTIONS?

Visit www.immunizebc.ca

Speak to your primary care provider or HIV specialist

Contact your local health unit, community health centre, or nursing station

Call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1

Book an immunization appointment today!



Find an immunization clinic:
www.immunizebc.ca/finder



Sign up to receive immunization appointment reminders via text message!

Two ways to sign up:

1. Text "sign up" to **604-757-0583**
2. Visit: www.immunizebc.ca/reminders



Find your immunization record at
healthgateway.gov.bc.ca