

Immunization: Three new vaccines added to routine childhood schedule

This fact sheet provides basic information only. It must not take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always talk to a healthcare professional about any health concerns you have, and before you make any changes to your diet, lifestyle or treatment.

Three new publicly funded vaccines have been added to the recommended schedule of routine childhood immunizations – vaccines for chicken pox, meningococcal meningitis and pneumococcal disease.

Children can begin a four-dose series of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine at two months of age.

The varicella (chicken pox) vaccine will be available to 5-year-old children who have not yet had chicken pox, as well as high-risk people of all ages.

The meningococcal C-conjugate vaccine is now available to children aged 12 years, youth aged 15 to 19 years inclusive and high-risk people of all ages.

VACCINE	WHO QUALIFIES	WHEN AVAILABLE	DISEASES PREVENTED
Pneumococcal Conjugate	- High-risk children 24 to 59 months of age - All children under 2 years old born on or after January 1, 2004 - High-risk children under 2 years of age	July 2004 January 2005 Available now	Invasive pneumococcal diseases (meningitis, pneumonia and infection of the bloodstream)
Varicella	- One-year-old children born on or after September 1, 2003 - Five-year-old children who have not yet had chicken pox - High-risk people of all ages	September 2004 January 2005 January 2005	Chicken pox and its complications (e.g., bacterial skin infections)
Meningococcal C-Conjugate	- One-year-old children born on or after September 1, 2003 - Children who are HIV-positive and who were born on or after January 1, 2002 - Children 12 years of age, youth aged 15 to 19 inclusive, and high-risk people of all ages - People in close contact with a person who has meningococcal disease due to serogroup c	September 2004 Available now January 2005 Available now	Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD), including meningitis and meningococemia (meningococcal infection of the blood)

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