

Facts About Adult Immunization

FACT: Each year on average in the US, more than 50,000 adults die from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications.

FACT: Each year, on average, more than 36,000 people die from seasonal flu complications; 90% of these deaths are in persons 65 years of age and older.

FACT: Medicare Part B reimburses healthcare providers who accept the Medicare-approved payment amount for both influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations.

FACT: During most influenza seasons, an average of 5-20% of the US population is infected with seasonal influenza virus. Seasonal influenza immunization can reduce physician visits and lost work days, and reduce antibiotic use.

FACT: Each year in the US, pneumococcal disease accounts for nearly 40,000 cases of bacteremia (bloodstream infection), and several thousand cases of meningitis (inflammation of the tissues and fluids surrounding the brain and spinal cord).

FACT: In the US, an estimated 1.25 million people are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and can infect household members and sexual partners.

FACT: HBV is found in blood and other body fluids such as semen and vaginal secretions of infected persons. HBV is 100 times more infectious than HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

FACT: The hepatitis B vaccine is recognized as the first anti-cancer vaccine because it can prevent primary liver cancer caused by chronic HBV infection.

FACT: More than 50% of new hepatitis B cases could be prevented if hepatitis B vaccination were offered routinely to all persons attending sexually transmitted disease clinics and to all correctional facility inmates.

FACT: By age 50, 80% of women will be infected with human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes cervical cancer. There are on average 9,710 new cases and 3,700 deaths from cervical cancer in the US every year.

FACT: Before hepatitis A vaccine became available in the US, about 270,000 persons were infected with hepatitis A virus (HAV) each year.

FACT: An estimated 100 people die from hepatitis A each year.

FACT: Hepatitis A is the most common vaccine-preventable disease acquired during travel.

Facts About Adult Immunization

FACT: Fifty or fewer cases of tetanus occur each year in the US, but result in about five deaths. Most deaths occur in those 60 years of age or older and persons with diabetes.

FACT: Almost all reported cases of tetanus occur in persons who either have never been vaccinated or who completed their primary series but have not had a booster vaccination in the past 10 years.

FACT: Nearly one of every 10 people who get diphtheria will die from it.

FACT: Almost one-third of reported pertussis (whooping cough) cases are in adults.

FACT: Infection with the pertussis bacteria (*Bordetella pertussis*) in adults covers a spectrum from mild cough illness to classic whooping cough.

FACT: Unimmunized persons of any age can get measles, but those born after 1956 who do not have proof of immunity are particularly at risk and should be immunized.

FACT: If rubella (German measles) occurs during pregnancy, it can result in severe birth defects, miscarriages and stillbirths.

FACT: Approximately one-fifth of people infected with mumps do not exhibit symptoms of the illness.

FACT: Serious complications of mumps are more common among adults than among children.

FACT: Adolescents and adults are more likely than children to develop severe complications when infected with the chickenpox virus.

FACT: Less than 5% of adults are susceptible to infection by the chickenpox virus, but adults are much more likely to die from chickenpox than are children.