

Vaccinations for Adults without a Spleen

The table below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health if you do not have a functioning spleen. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

Vaccine	Do you need it?
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Maybe. You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis A* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is usually given in 2 doses, 6–12 months apart.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Maybe. You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis B* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is given in 2 or 3 doses, depending on the brand.
Hib (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b)	Yes! You are at increased risk for Hib disease because you do not have a functioning spleen. If you have never received Hib vaccination (or don't know if you received it), you should receive 1 dose now.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Yes! You need this vaccine if you are a woman age 26 or younger or a man age 21 or younger. Men age 22 through 26 with a risk condition* also need vaccination. All other men age 22 through 26 who want to be protected from HPV may receive it too. The vaccine is usually given in 3 doses over a 6-month period.
Influenza	Yes! You need a dose every fall (or winter) for your protection and for the protection of others around you. As of 2019, live attenuated influenza vaccine (FluMist) is not recommended for people without a spleen.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Maybe. You need at least 1 dose of MMR vaccine if you were born in 1957 or later. You may also need a second dose.
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)	Yes! You are at increased risk for meningococcal disease because you do not have a functioning spleen. If you have never received MenACWY vaccine, you should receive 2 doses separated by 8 weeks, then a booster dose every 5 years thereafter.
Meningococcal B (MenB)	Yes! You are at increased risk for meningococcal type B disease because you do not have a functioning spleen. You will need to complete a series of MenB vaccine, 2 or 3 doses, depending on the brand.
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax 23, PPSV23; Prevnar 13, PCV13)	Yes! Both types of pneumococcal vaccine (Prevnar and Pneumovax) are recommended for you because you do not have a functioning spleen. If you haven't received both vaccines, call your healthcare provider and schedule them now. The dose of Prevnar is given first, followed by 1 dose of Pneumovax at least 8 weeks later. You will need a booster dose of Pneumovax 5 years after your first dose. Additionally, if you received 1 or 2 doses of Pneumovax when you were younger than age 65, you will need another dose at age 65 or older, if at least 5 years have passed since your previous dose of Pneumovax.
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! If you have not received a dose of Tdap during your lifetime, you need to get a Tdap shot now (the adult whooping cough vaccine). And all women need to get a dose during each pregnancy. After that, you need a Td booster dose every 10 years. Consult your healthcare provider if you haven't had at least 3 tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing shots sometime in your life or if you have a deep or dirty wound.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Maybe. If you've never had chickenpox, were never vaccinated, or were vaccinated but received only 1 dose, talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.*
Zoster (shingles)	Yes! If you are age 50 or older, you should get the 2-dose series of the Shingrix brand of shingles vaccine, even if you already were vaccinated with Zostavax.

* Consult your healthcare provider to determine your level of risk for infection and your need for this vaccine.

Are you planning to travel outside the United States? Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list for travel information, or consult a travel clinic.