

## **Pneumococcal vaccination**

Pneumococci are bacteria. They can make older people sicker more quickly because their immune response is generally weaker. You can develop a serious illness such as pneumonia. The vaccination reduces your risk of becoming sick as a result of pneumococci.

### **How can you become sick?**

- These bacteria can be found in the nose and throat of many people without their becoming sick as a result.
- The bacteria are ejected into the air via coughing and sneezing.

When other people inhale this air, they can become infected and fall ill. This is especially true of people with a weaker immune system.

### **So what are the consequences?**

- Pneumonia is the most frequent illness caused by pneumococci under persons older than 60 years of age.

After developing an illness caused by pneumococci, your health can be negatively impacted for a long time. And your life expectancy will be reduced.

### **The vaccination protects you**

- Under persons older than 60 years, vaccination can have the following annual impact:
- Preventing 800 out of a total of 6000 hospital admissions and
- 120 out of 900 deaths.

The pneumococcal vaccination provide protection against the most common pneumococci. But it does not prevent all pneumococcal disease.

### **Who will be invited to take part?**

- Older people are the most vulnerable. You will therefore receive an invitation if you were born between 1941 and 1947.
- After the age of 80, the pneumococcal vaccination does not provide much protection. People older than 80 are therefore not invited to receive the pneumococcal vaccination.

The pneumococcal vaccination provides extra protection against pneumonia.

### **For more information go to:**

[www.rivm.nl/pneumokokken](http://www.rivm.nl/pneumokokken)

[www.thuisarts.pneumokokken](http://www.thuisarts.pneumokokken)