

Invitation to get the pneumococcal vaccine

Patient's name
Patient's address
Patient's postcode and town/city

Date

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is your invitation to get the pneumococcal vaccine. Pneumococci are bacteria that can make you seriously ill. We are inviting you because you were born between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1960.

What does the vaccine do?

The vaccine makes you less likely to get pneumococcal disease. You are also less likely to get pneumonia. The vaccine's protection wears off after five years.

When should you call the practice?

- If you have a fever on the day you are scheduled to get the vaccine. Please make a new appointment.
- If you know you are allergic to the vaccine.
- If you have had the vaccine within the past two years, for example at the hospital.
- If you will be having surgery on the day you are scheduled to get the vaccine, or within two days after that.
- If you are currently having chemotherapy or have had chemotherapy within the past three months.
- If you are unable to make it on the date below.

Are there any side effects?

- Your arm may be sensitive and sore after getting the vaccine. The place where the needle went in may become red and swollen. This usually goes away after a day or two.
- You may feel unwell and have muscle pain and a fever for a few days after getting the vaccine. Your body is building up resistance against pneumococci during this time.

Your invitation

The vaccine is free of charge. You can come and get the pneumococcal vaccine on the following date and time:

Date:
Time:
Location:

- Bring this letter with you to the appointment.
- You will get the vaccine in your upper arm. Wear clothes that make it easy for you to uncover your upper arm.
- If you have also received an invitation to get the flu vaccine on the same day, please bring both letters to the appointment. You will get the flu vaccine in your other upper arm.

Would you like to know more?

- Read the information on the back of this invitation.
- www.thuisarts.nl/prik-tegen-pneumokokken
- www.rivm.nl/en/pneumococci/where-and-when-to-get-pneumococcal-vaccine
- You can also contact your General Practitioner (GP) practice.

Your GP