

# Pneumococcal infection and vaccination

## How does pneumococcal infection affect me?

- It can cause infection of the blood, brain, chest or other parts of the body.
- Older people are more likely to get the infection, and be more unwell.
- Up to 3 in 10 people with a pneumococcal brain infection will die.

## How does the pneumococcal vaccine help?

- Getting the vaccine means you are less likely to have the serious blood, brain and chest infections.

## What are the different pneumococcal vaccines?

- There are two types of pneumococcal vaccines – the brand names are
  - Prevenar
  - and
  - Pneumovax.
- Most older people will only require one dose of Prevenar. However, some people at higher risk of disease will also require further doses of Pneumovax.

## When can I get the pneumococcal vaccine?

- 70 years old and older: 1 dose of Prevenar
- Ask your doctor if you also need Pneumovax (2 doses).

## What are common side effects of the pneumococcal vaccine?

- About 1 in 5 people will have swelling, redness or pain at the injection site or fever – these side effects go away after 2-3 days.
- A small lump can develop at the injection site and may last for a few weeks or months – this does not need treatment.

- Paracetamol can help with the pain and fever.

### Where can I get more information?

- Speak to your GP.
- Frequently asked questions on pneumococcal vaccines are also available (in English only) – please scan the QR code:

