

Vaccinations for Men Who Have Sex with Men

The table below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health if you are a man who has sex with other men. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

Vaccine	Do you need it?
COVID-19	Yes! All adults need to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccination. Talk to your healthcare provider.
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Yes! Men who have sex with men need this vaccine to provide protection against hepatitis A virus, a “serious infection of the liver that can be fatal. The vaccine is usually given in 2 doses, 6–18 months apart.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Yes! Because you have sex with other men, you are at higher risk for hepatitis B. If you haven’t had a series of hepatitis B vaccinations, you need to get either a 2- or 3-dose series, depending on the brand. If you started a series earlier but didn’t complete it, you can simply continue from where you left off. All adults should be screened for hepatitis B infection with a blood test at least one time; talk with your healthcare provider.
Hib (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b)	Maybe. Some adults with certain high-risk conditions,* for example, lack of a functioning spleen, need vaccination with Hib. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Yes! Men who have sex with men are at high risk for infection with HPV. You should be vaccinated against HPV if you are age 26 or younger. Adults age 27 through 45 may also be vaccinated against HPV after a discussion with their healthcare provider. The vaccine is usually given in 2 or 3 doses (depending on the age at which the first dose was given) over a 6-month period; 3 doses are needed for people with a weakened immune system.
Influenza (Flu)	Yes! You need to get vaccinated against influenza every fall or winter for your protection and for the protection of others around you.
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.* People with weakened immune systems should not get MMR vaccine.
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)	Maybe. You may need MenACWY vaccine if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen, and boosters if your risk is ongoing. You need MenACWY if you are a first-year college student living in a residence hall and (1) you have not had a dose since turning 16, or (2) it has been more than 5 years since your last dose. Anyone age 19 through 21 can have a catch-up dose if they have not had one since turning 16.
Meningococcal B (MenB)	Maybe. You may need MenB if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a spleen, and also boosters if your risk is ongoing. You also may need MenB vaccine and a booster if you are at increased risk during a MenB outbreak; check with your local health department. You may also consider getting the MenB vaccine if you are age 23 or younger (even if you don’t have a high-risk medical condition) after a discussion with your healthcare provider.
Pneumococcal (PPSV23; PCV15, PCV20)	Maybe. If you are 65 or older or have a certain high-risk condition,* then you need PCV20 alone, or PCV15 followed by PPSV23. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out whether you need pneumococcal vaccination now.
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! If you have not received a dose of Tdap during your lifetime, you need to get Tdap now. After that, you need a Tdap or 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, never were vaccinated, or were vaccinated but only received 1 dose, talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this vaccine.* People with a weakened immune system should not get varicella vaccine.
Zoster (Shingles)	Maybe. If you are age 50 or older, or if you are younger than 50 and immunocompromised, you should get a 2-dose series of the Shingrix vaccine.

* 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.

