

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?
COVID-19	Yes! All adults need to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccination. Talk to your healthcare provider.
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, 6–18 months apart.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Yes! All unvaccinated adults younger than 60 are recommended to complete a 2- or 3-dose series of HepB vaccine, depending on the brand. People age 60 and older at increased risk hepatitis B,* or who want protection, should also be vaccinated. All adults should be screened for hepatitis B infection with a blood test at least one time; talk with your healthcare provider.
Hib (Haemophilus influenzae 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 should get this vaccine if you are 26 years or younger. Adults age 27 through 45 may also choose to be vaccinated 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.
Influenza (Flu)	Yes! You need to be vaccinated against influenza every fall or winter.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Maybe. You need at least 1 dose of MMR if you were born in 1957 or later. You may also need a second dose.* Pregnant people and people with a severely weakened immune system should not get MMR.
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY, MenABCWY)	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, followed by a booster every 5 years. A combination MenABCWY is an option when both MenACWY and MenB are needed.
Meningococcal B (MenB, MenABCWY)	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. You will also need a booster 1 year after completion of the series, and then additional boosters every 2–3 years thereafter. A combination MenABCWY is an option when both MenACWY and MenB are needed.
Mpox	Maybe! You need the 2-dose series of mpox vaccine (Jynneos) if you are at risk due to known or suspected exposure to someone with mpox or if you have certain sexual practices that increase your risk of exposure to mpox.* Talk with your healthcare provider.
Pneumococcal (PCV, PPSV23)	Yes! Because you do not have a functioning spleen, you need to get either PCV20 or PCV21 alone, or PCV15 followed at least 8 weeks later by PPSV23. If you have previously received either PCV13 and/or PPSV23, talk with your healthcare provider about what additional doses you may need.
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	Yes! You should get this one-time vaccine if you are 75 years or older, or if you are between the ages of 60 and 74 and are at increased risk of severe RSV. To protect infants from RSV, either the pregnant person should be vaccinated with Abrysvo (Pfizer) RSV vaccine, or the infant should be given RSV preventive antibody (nirsevimab).
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap, Td)	Yes! If you have never received a dose of Tdap, you need to get a Tdap shot 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 in your life or if you have a deep or dirty wound.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Maybe. If you have 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.* Pregnant people and people with a severely weakened immune system should not get varicella vaccine.
Zoster (Shingles)	Yes! If you are 19 or older and have a weakened immune system or are 50 or older, you should get 2 doses of the Shingrix brand of shingles 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.

