

## What to expect after the vaccine

Some children may have discomfort, redness or swelling where the injection was given.

They may be irritable and have a raised temperature. If this happens you can give them infant paracetamol or ibuprofen.

You should also give them plenty to drink.

Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.

## For more information

- Contact your family doctor or public health nurse
- Get a copy of **Your child's immunisations - A guide for parents** from your public health nurse
- Visit [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) or [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

## Remember

PCV only protects against the most common strains of streptococcus pneumoniae that cause pneumococcal meningitis and septicaemia.

**There are other causes of meningitis and septicaemia so you need to know the symptoms to look out for**

**These may include**

- fever
- refusing food
- pale or blotchy skin, spots or a rash, or
- drowsiness or difficulty in waking.

# Pneumococcal vaccine catch-up programme

Information for parents



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## What is pneumococcal disease?

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacteria streptococcus pneumoniae.

## How is pneumococcal disease spread?

Pneumococcal disease is contagious. The bacteria live in the nose and throat of humans. The disease is spread through the air by a person who carries the bacteria coughing, sneezing or even breathing.

## What illnesses does it cause?

Pneumococcal disease can cause serious illnesses including:

- Meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain)
- Septicaemia (blood poisoning)
- Pneumonia

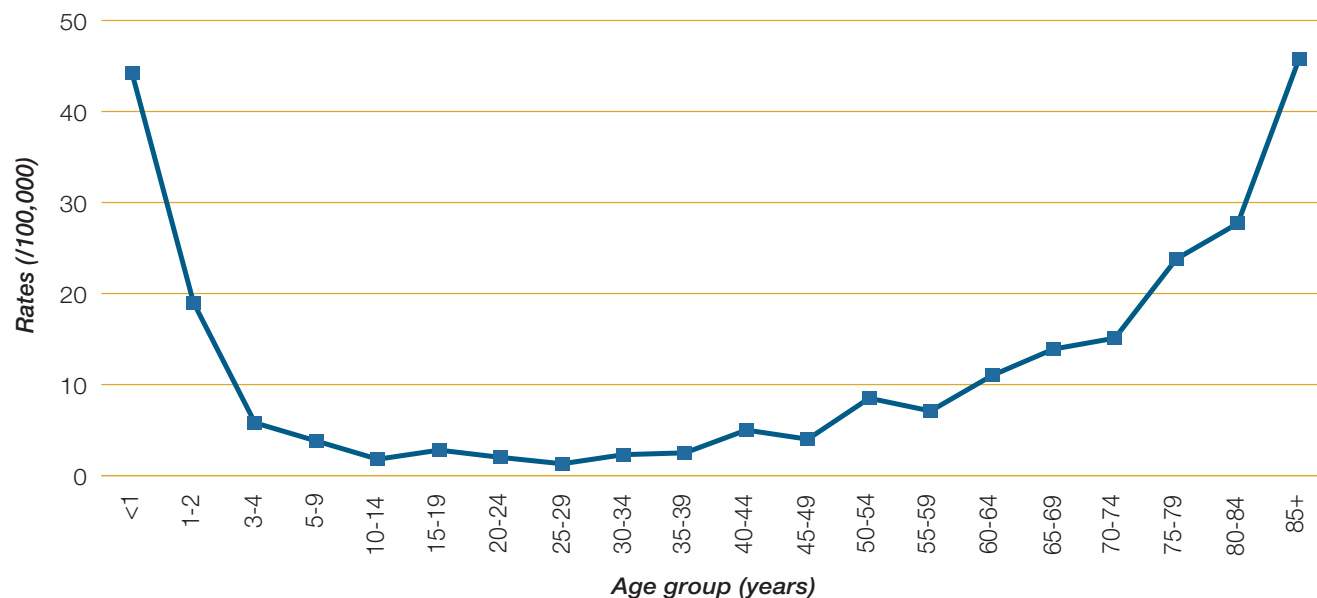
## Who is most at risk?

Pneumococcal disease is most common in children under two and people over 65 years of age (see diagram).

## Is there a vaccine against pneumococcal disease?

From September 2008 the pneumococcal vaccine (PCV) will be included in the childhood immunisation programme at 2, 6 and 12 months of age. There is a PCV catch-up programme for all children under two because pneumococcal disease is most common in this age group.

## Rates of pneumococcal disease by age group (Source: HPSC)



## When will my child get PCV?

All children born between 2nd September 2006 and 30th June 2008 will be offered PCV. This visit is free of charge.

## What do I need to do?

If your child was born between **2nd September 2006** and **31st July 2007** contact your GP now to arrange for your child to have PCV.

If your child was born between **1st August 2007** and **29th February 2008** your child must be 13 months of age before they receive their PCV.

If your child was born between **1st March 2008** and **30th June 2008** they will get one dose of PCV (with their last dose of 5 in 1 and Men C) and another dose of PCV at 13 months.

## What if my child missed some of their vaccines?

Your child can get the other vaccines at the same time as PCV. Talk to your doctor about this.