

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 are recommended to get a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine plus booster doses when eligible.
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 adults younger than 60 are recommended to complete a 2- or 3-dose series of hepatitis B vaccine, depending on the brand. In addition, people 60 and older with high risk conditions or those who simply want the protection, should also be vaccinated.
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 papilloma-virus (HPV)	Yes! You should get this vaccine if you are 26 years 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.
Influenza (Flu)	Yes! You need to be vaccinated against influenza every fall (or even as late as winter or spring) 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)	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, a booster 1 year after completion of the series, and then additional boosters every 2–3 years thereafter.
Meningococcal B (MenB)	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.
Pneumococcal (PPSV23; PCV15, PCV20)	Yes! Because you do not have a functioning spleen, you need to get either PCV20 alone, or PCV15 followed 1 year later by PPSV23. If you have previously received either PCV13 and/or PPSV23, your healthcare provider can determine what additional doses you may need.
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! If you have not received a dose of Tdap during your lifetime, 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 sometime 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.* People with weakened immune systems 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 a 2-dose series of the Shingrix brand of shingles vaccine, even if you were already vaccinated with Zostavax.

* 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.