



Florence County Health Department

501 Lake Ave PO Box 410 Florence, Wisconsin 54121 715-528-4837
A.Seibold, RN, MS Health Officer/Director



NEWS RELEASE

01/03/2020

Annette Seibold
Florence County Health Department
715-528-4837
FAX 715-528-5269
aseibold@co.florence.wi.us

Pneumonia Vaccine for Older Adults

[Florence, WI] –

In the U.S., thousands of adults die each year of pneumonia. Thousands more are hospitalized because of pneumococcal disease. It can cause severe infections of the lung (pneumonia), blood stream (bacteremia) and lining of the spinal cord and brain (meningitis). Two vaccines provide protection against this serious disease which is caused by the Streptococcus pneumonia bacteria. The vaccines that help prevent pneumococcal disease are: Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13) and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPSV23). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends PCV13 and PPSV23 for adults 65 years and older and those 19-64 with certain health conditions or who smoke cigarettes, have asthma or diabetes. Check with your medical provider or pharmacist to see if they offer pneumococcal vaccines. Pneumonia vaccines are covered by Medicare and most insurances during your annual wellness visit.

Are you unsure of whether you are up to date on your vaccinations? You can access your immunization records online with your social security number using the Wisconsin Immunization Registry at <https://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/PR/clientSearch.do?language=en>. You can also call the Florence County Health Department at 715-528-4837 to determine your vaccination status.

For more information, go to the Florence County Health Department webpage at <http://www.florencecountywi.com/>. The Florence County Health Department is located on the first floor of the courthouse. Need health insurance? Visit access.wi.gov to see if you qualify for benefits.

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