

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?
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Yes! Men who have sex with men (MSM) 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 months apart.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Yes! Because you have sex with other men, you are at higher risk for hepatitis B virus infection. If you've never had a series of hepatitis B vaccinations, you need to receive 3 doses. If you started the 3-dose series earlier but didn't complete it, you can simply continue from where you left off. Ask your healthcare provider if you need screening blood tests for hepatitis B.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Maybe.* You should be vaccinated against HPV if you are age 26 years or younger. The vaccine is given in 3 doses over a 6-month period.
Influenza	Yes! You need a dose every fall (or winter) for your protection and for the protection of others around you.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Maybe. Most adults are already protected because they got MMR vaccine or were infected with measles, mumps, and rubella as children. If you weren't previously vaccinated or were born in 1957 or later, you need at least 1 dose of MMR. You may also need a second dose.*
Meningococcal (MenACWY [MCV4], MenB, MPSV4)	Maybe. You may need MenACWY and/or MenB if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen. You need MenACWY if you are age 21 or younger and a first-year college student living in a residence hall and you either have never been vaccinated or were vaccinated before age 16. You should consider MenB if you are age 23 or younger (even if you don't have a high-risk medical condition).
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax [polysaccharide vaccine, PPSV]; Prevnar [conjugate vaccine] PCV)	Maybe. If you are age 65 years (or older), you need both pneumococcal vaccines, Prevnar (if you haven't had it before) and Pneumovax. Get Prevnar first and then get Pneumovax 1 year later. If you are younger than age 65 and have certain high-risk conditions (for example, asthma, heart, lung, or kidney disease, immunosuppression, or lack of a functioning spleen, or are a smoker),* you need one or both vaccines. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out when you need them.
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! All adults need to get a 1-time dose of Tdap vaccine (the adult whooping cough vaccine) and women need to get a dose during each pregnancy. After that, you need a 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 received only 1 dose, talk to your healthcare providers about getting this vaccine.*
Zoster (shingles)	Maybe.* If you are age 60 years or older, you should get a 1-time dose of this vaccine now.
Hib (<i>Haemophilus influenzae type b</i>)	Maybe. Some adults with certain high-risk conditions need vaccination with Hib vaccine. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need this 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.