



McHenry County Department of Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pneumonia vaccine available

WOODSTOCK IL – Residents 65 and older who have never received the pneumonia vaccine can schedule an appointment with the McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH). The vaccine is free to those with Medicare Part B or Medicaid; otherwise the cost is \$35.00. Eligibility also extends to those aged 19-64 who have never received the vaccine, have a chronic illness such as asthma or who smoke. The vaccine is not recommended for pregnant women and people with Guilliam Barre Syndrome. Most people only need one vaccination; consult with a physician prior to receiving the pneumonia vaccine. MCDH is located at 2200 N Seminary Avenue, Annex A, in Woodstock (behind the courthouse).

Pneumococcal pneumonia is a serious illness, accounting for 10%-25% annually for all pneumonias. It is caused by bacteria which attacks different parts of the body and can lead to serious infections of the lungs (pneumonia), the bloodstream (bacteremia), and the covering of the brain (meningitis). Anyone can get pneumococcal disease; however, older adults (over 65 years of age) are considered high risk. Mild side effects following vaccination include redness and pain at the injection site.

Appointments are limited. The Medicare card must be presented at the time of vaccination. Call MCDH at 815-334-4931 to schedule an appointment. Visit [Illinois Department of Public Health](http://www.idph.state.il.us) to learn more about pneumococcal disease.

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“Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966.”