

Cochlear Implant

Recommended vaccines for cochlear implant candidate or recipient ^A	
All routine vaccines	Immunize according to routine schedule with the exception of the vaccines listed below.
Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine	Children identified for a cochlear implant before 1 year of age should be immunized according to the high risk schedule for pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. Children identified after 1 year of age who have completed an age-appropriate schedule, do not require an additional dose. (See Part 4- Biological Products, Completing a Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Series).
Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine	Individuals should receive 1 dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine at 2 years of age or older, and at least 8 weeks after their final dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (if applicable).
Hib vaccine	Incompletely immunized individuals 5 years of age and older require 1 dose.

Children with cochlear implants are at increased risk of developing bacterial meningitis, most commonly caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus). There is no evidence that children with cochlear implants are more likely to get meningococcal meningitis than children without cochlear implants.

Some children who are candidates for cochlear implants may have factors that increase their risk of meningitis even before they receive a cochlear implant.

The Cochlear Implant Services at BC Children’s Hospital provides a letter to parents/caregivers that is used to collect the child’s immunization history. This letter can be found at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/immunization/immunization-forms-and-letters>.

^A For specific vaccine schedule information, refer to [Part 4 - Biological Products](#).