



Kidney disease weakens immunity

- Higher risk of severe infections (flu, pneumonia, COVID-19, hepatitis B).



Vaccines protect

- Boost immune defenses.
- Lower risk of hospitalization and death.
- Protects patients, families, and caregivers.



Recommended Vaccines for Adults with CKD, on dialysis or had a transplant

- **COVID-19** vaccine prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19, which is more dangerous for people with kidney disease
- **Flu** vaccine prevents flu, which can cause severe illness, and hospital stays in people with kidney disease.
- **Pneumococcal (pneumonia)** vaccine prevents pneumonia, meningitis, and blood infections that are more common in CKD.
- **RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)** vaccine prevents serious lung infections from RSV in older adults, infants, and high-risk toddlers.



Fact vs. Fiction: Vaccines & CKD

There are many myths about vaccines and kidney disease, here are some facts you need to know:

Myth: “Vaccines can give me the disease.”

Fact: Vaccines train your immune system — they don’t cause illness.

Myth: “I don’t need vaccines because I’m careful.”

Fact: CKD weakens immunity, so infections are harder to fight even if you’re cautious.

Myth: “Vaccines interfere with my kidney medicines or dialysis.”

Fact: Most vaccines are safe and recommended. Doctors adjust timing if needed.

Questions to ask your healthcare team

Which vaccines do I need based on my kidney disease, age, or treatment (dialysis, transplant)?

Can I get vaccines during dialysis treatments or at the pharmacy?

Do I need extra or higher doses for full protection?

How often will I need boosters?

What side effects should I expect, and when should I call you?

Tracking your vaccines

VACCINE NAME	DATE	NOTES

Learn more about Adult Vaccines for
People living with Kidney Disease →



For more information, contact the National Kidney Foundation

Toll-free help line: 855.NKF.CARES or email: nkfcares@kidney.org