

Common Side Effects for the vaccines that protect against Flu and Pneumonia

Many vaccine injections may cause soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site for 1 to 2 days. Apply a cold wet washer to the area. Paracetamol may be given to ease the discomfort. Sometimes a small, hard lump may last for some weeks or months where the injection was given. You don't need to be concerned and no treatment is needed.

All the common side effects following vaccination are mild and short lasting and treatment is not usually needed. If you are worried about your condition or if the symptoms are severe or persistent see your doctor as soon as possible.

The vaccine takes two weeks to work so protection will not occur immediately after vaccination. It is not uncommon for people who get sick just after vaccination to think the vaccine hasn't worked or has caused the infection. If you get sick within a few days of vaccination you were probably already developing infection from a common virus or even developing influenza before protection started.

Can you get the 'flu' from having the influenza vaccine?

No. Influenza vaccine can't cause the 'flu' as it isn't a live virus. Some people may experience one or more side effects such as mild fever, tiredness or muscle aches after having the vaccine but this isn't the flu just a sign your body is developing protection.

Possible side effects for Pneumovax 23 vaccine

Low grade fever



Pain, redness & swelling



Possible side effects for Influenza (Flu) vaccine

Low grade fever



Muscle aches



Tiredness or drowsiness



Pain, redness & swelling

