Dear [Insert Patient Name]:

Many people often **think that only children need vaccinations** to help protect them against diseases like the flu, pneumococcal disease, tetanus, and others. However, **each year thousands of adults** suffer illnesses, hospitalizations, and, in serious cases, even death **from diseases that may have been preventable** with adult vaccinations.1

**Possible Complications from VPDs in Adults2-8**



Many people dismiss pneumococcal pneumonia as an illness that only the elderly or sick people get in the hospital. However, anyone can get pneumococcal disease.9

**Some symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia include8**

* High fever and shaking chills
* Chest pain with difficulty breathing
* Cough with phlegm that persists or gets worse

Getting vaccinated may help protect against potentially serious diseases, including pneumococcal pneumonia.

**Talk with your doctor about the risks of VPDs, like pneumococcal pneumonia, and to see if certain adult vaccinations may be right for you**

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]

[Insert Title]

[Insert Provider Name]

**References: 1.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Why vaccines are important for you. [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/reasons-to-](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/reasons-to-) vaccinate.html. Updated May 2, 2016. Accessed August 3, 2020. **2.** CDC. 2019-2020 U.S. flu season: preliminary burden estimates.

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**4.** National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID). Tetanus questions and answers. https://immunize.org/catg.d/p4220.pdf. June 2020. Accessed August 3, 2020. **5.** CDC. Shingles burden and trends. https://[www.cdc.gov/shingles/surveillance.html.](http://www.cdc.gov/shingles/surveillance.html) Updated August 14, 2019. Accessed August 3, 2020. **6.** NFID. Diphtheria. https://[www.nfid.org/infectious-diseases/diphtheria.](http://www.nfid.org/infectious-diseases/diphtheria) Accessed August 3, 2020. **7.** NFID. Whooping cough (pertussis). [http://www.adultvaccination.org/vpd/pertussis.](http://www.adultvaccination.org/vpd/pertussis) Accessed August 3, 2020. **8.** CDC. Pneumococcal disease. In: Hamborsky J, Kroger A, Wolfe S, eds. *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*. 13th ed. Washington, DC: Public Health Foundation; 2015:278-296. **9.** CDC. Pneumococcal disease: risk factors and transmission. https[://w](http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/risk-transmission.html)ww[.c](http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/risk-transmission.html)d[c.gov/pneumococcal/about/risk-transmission.html.](http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/risk-transmission.html) September 6, 2017. Accessed August 3, 2020.

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