Pneumococcal Disease

To learn more about pneumococcal disease, scan QR code below.

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Get your child the pneumococcal vaccine today!

Have questions?

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Pneumococcal Disease

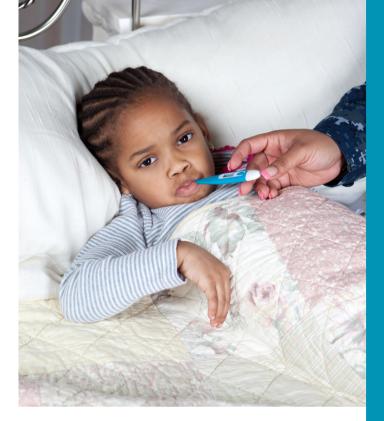Pneumococcal disease is a name for any infection caused by the *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, or pneumococcus, bacteria.

Pneumococcus bacteria can cause many different types of infections, including:
- Pneumonia (lung infection),
- Meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord),
- Bacteremia (blood infection),
- Otitis media (middle ear infection), and
- Sinusitis (sinus infection).

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms depend on the part of the body that is infected:
- **Pneumonia**: Fever and chills, cough, difficulty breathing, and chest pain.
- **Meningitis**: Stiff neck, fever, headache, photophobia (eyes more sensitive to light), and confusion.
  - In babies, meningitis may cause poor eating and drinking, low alertness, and vomiting.
- **Bacteremia**: Fever, chills, and low alertness.
- **Otitis media**: Ear pain, red and swollen ear drum, fever, and sleepiness.
- **Sinusitis**: Headache, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, facial pain or pressure, and postnasal drip.

Most pneumococcal infections are mild. However, some can be deadly or result in long-term problems.

Spread

Direct contact through touching the mouth or nose and when coughing and sneezing. A person can spread the bacteria even if they are not showing any signs or symptoms.

Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but being a certain age (0 to 4 years old and adults 65 years or older) or having certain health conditions can increase a person's risk.

Prevention

Vaccines are the best way to prevent pneumococcal disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, recommends pneumococcal vaccination for:
- All children 0 to 4 years old.
- People 5-64 years old, who are at increased risk for disease.
- Adults 65 years or older.

It is also important to get a flu vaccine every year. Having the flu increases the likelihood someone also gets pneumococcal disease.

Get Vaccinated

Schedule an appointment with your child's doctor. If you do not have a doctor, please call 2-1-1 for assistance.