

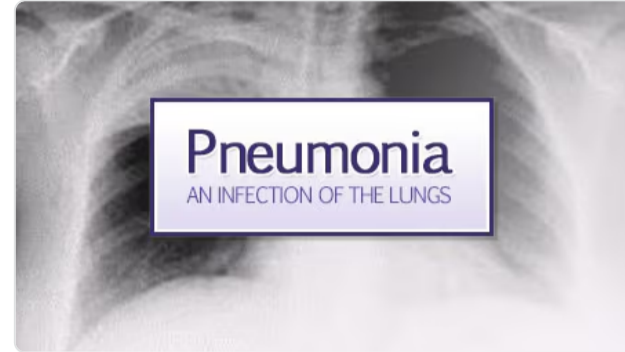


OCTOBER 7, 2024

About Pneumonia

KEY POINTS

- Bacteria and viruses are common causes of pneumonia (a lung infection).
- Fungi and parasites are less common causes.
- Germs that commonly cause pneumonia in the community are different from those in healthcare settings.
- Clinicians aren't always able to find out which germ caused someone to get sick with pneumonia.



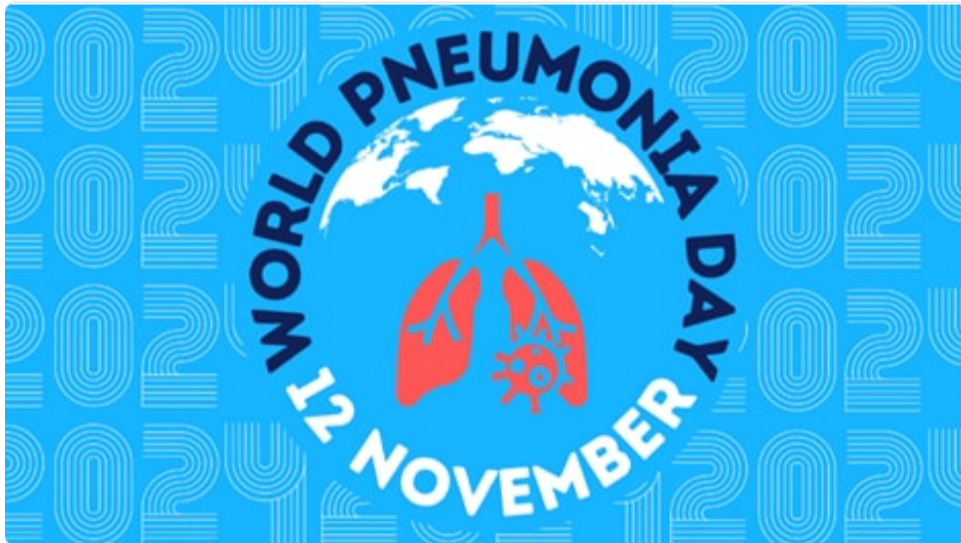
MORE INFORMATION

[For Everyone](#)

[Health Care Providers](#)

Overview

Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs. Many germs (bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses) can cause pneumonia.



World Pneumonia Day is November 12, 2024.

Types

People in the community and people in healthcare settings may be exposed to different types of bacteria and viruses.

Defining types of pneumonia

Community-acquired pneumonia is when someone develops pneumonia in the community (not in a hospital).

Healthcare-acquired pneumonia is when someone develops pneumonia during or following a stay in a healthcare setting.

Ventilator-associated pneumonia is when someone gets pneumonia after being on a ventilator, a machine that supports breathing.

Symptoms

Common symptoms of pneumonia include:

- Chest pain when breathing or coughing
- Altered mental status (confusion)

- Cough
- Fatigue (feeling tired)
- Fever or chills
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Shortness of breath

Who is at risk

Some people are at increased risk for pneumonia due to **age**, other **health conditions**, and certain **behaviors**.

Keep Reading:
[Risk Factors](#)

Causes

Bacterial infections

Bacterial infections that are **common causes** of community-acquired pneumonia include:

- [Mycoplasma pneumoniae infection](#)
- [Pneumococcal disease](#)

The following bacterial infections can cause pneumonia, but are **less common** causes:

- [Chlamydia pneumoniae infection](#)
- [Haemophilus influenzae disease](#)
- [Legionella infection \(Legionnaires' disease and Pontiac Fever\)](#)
- [Pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#)
- [Psittacosis](#)

Fungal infections

In general, fungal infections are a **less common** cause of pneumonia.

Keep Reading:
[Fungal Diseases](#)

Viral infections

Viral infections that **commonly** cause pneumonia include

- [COVID-19](#)
- [Human metapneumovirus \(HMPV\) infection](#)
- [Human parainfluenza virus \(HPIV\) infection](#)
- [Influenza \(flu\)](#)
- [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) infection](#)
- [Rhinovirus infection](#)

The following viral infections can cause pneumonia, but are a **less common** cause:

- [Adenovirus infection](#)
- [Chickenpox](#)
- [Measles](#)

Sometimes the cause of pneumonia is unknown



Healthcare providers are not always able to find out which germ caused someone to get sick with pneumonia.

Prevention

Pneumonia affects millions of people worldwide each year.

People can lower their risk of pneumonia with immunizations and other healthy living practices.

Keep Reading:

[Prevention and Control](#)

Resources

[Healthcare-associated infections](#)

SOURCES

CONTENT SOURCE:

[National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases](#)