

Fever: Usually high

Respiratory

- Cough: Unproductive to productive with whitish sputum
- Tachypnea
- Breath sounds: Crackles, decreased breath sounds
- Dullness with percussion
- Chest pain
- Retractions
- Nasal flaring
- Pallor to cyanosis (depends on severity)

Chest radiography: Diffuse or patchy infiltration with peribronchial distribution

Behavior: Irritability, restlessness, malaise, lethargy

Gastrointestinal: Anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain

Viral infections of the respiratory tract render the affected child more susceptible to secondary bacterial invasion, especially when there is denuded bronchial mucosa. Treatment is symptomatic and includes measures to promote oxygenation and comfort, such as oxygen administration with cool mist, postural drainage, antipyretics for fever management, monitoring fluid intake, and family support. Antimicrobial therapy is usually reserved for children in whom a bacterial infection is demonstrated by appropriate cultures.