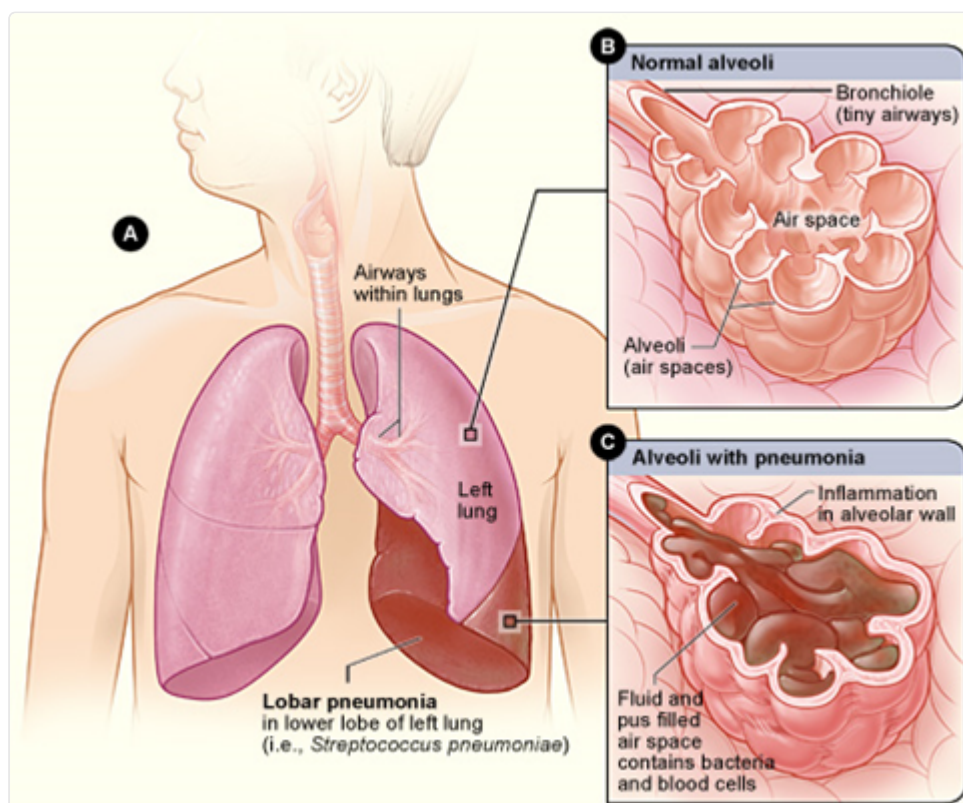


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## PNEUMONIA

# What Is Pneumonia?



*Pneumonia, caused by bacteria. Figure A shows pneumonia affecting part of the left lung. Figure B shows healthy alveoli (air sacs). Figure C shows alveoli filled with mucus.*

Pneumonia is an infection that affects one or both lungs. It causes the air sacs, or alveoli, of the lungs to fill up with fluid or pus. Bacteria, viruses, or fungi may [cause](#) pneumonia. [Symptoms](#) can range from mild to serious and may include a cough with or without mucus (a slimy substance), fever, chills, and trouble breathing. How serious your pneumonia is depends on your age, your overall health, and what caused your infection.

To [diagnose](#) pneumonia, your healthcare provider will review your medical history, perform a physical exam, and order diagnostic tests such as a [chest X-ray](#). This information can help determine what type of pneumonia you have.

[Treatment](#) for pneumonia may include antibiotic, viral, or fungal medicines. It may take several weeks to [recover from pneumonia](#). If your symptoms get worse, you should see a healthcare provider right away. If you have severe pneumonia, you may need to go to the hospital for antibiotics given through an intravenous (IV) line and [oxygen therapy](#).

Some types of pneumonia can be [prevented](#) by vaccines. Good hygiene and [heart-healthy living](#) can also lower your risk for pneumonia.

**WHAT IS PNEUMONIA?**


**Could You Have Pneumonia?**

Symptoms of pneumonia can be mild or serious. They may include:

- Chest pain when breathing or coughing
- Chills and/or fever
- Coughing with or without mucus
- Low blood oxygen levels
- Shortness of breath

**Learn the facts about pneumonia, its signs and symptoms, and ways to manage it after a diagnosis.**

**Basic Facts About Pneumonia**

 Pneumonia is an infection that causes the air sacs (called alveoli) in one or both lungs to fill up with fluid or pus.

## FACT SHEET

### What Is Pneumonia?

This fact sheet describes pneumonia, including how it affects breathing, what causes it, and how it's diagnosed and treated.

[View the fact sheet](#) ➤

*Last updated on March 24, 2022*

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