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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/pneumococcalinfections.html>

Pneumococcal Infections

Also called: *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infections

Pneumococci are a type of streptococcus [<https://medlineplus.gov/streptococcalinfections.html>] bacteria. The bacteria spread through contact with people who are ill or by healthy people who carry the bacteria in the back of their nose. Pneumococcal infections can be mild or severe. The most common types of infections are:

- Ear infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/earinfections.html>]
- Sinus infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/sinusitis.html>]
- Pneumonia [<https://medlineplus.gov/pneumonia.html>]
- Sepsis [<https://medlineplus.gov/sepsis.html>]
- Meningitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/meningitis.html>]

How the diagnosis is made depends upon where the infection is. Your doctor will do a physical exam and ask about your medical history. Possible tests may include blood, imaging, or lab tests. Treatment is with antibiotics. Vaccines can prevent pneumococcal infections. There are two vaccines. One is for infants and young children. The other is for people at high risk, including those who are over 65 years old, have chronic illnesses or weak immune systems, smoke, have asthma, or live in long-term care facilities.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention




Start Here

- About Pneumococcal Disease [<https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Symptoms

- Pneumococcal Disease Symptoms and Complications [<https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/signs-symptoms/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Bacteria Culture Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/bacteria-culture-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-cultivo-de-bacterias/>]
- Pneumococcal Disease Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/pneumococcal-disease-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-deteccion-de-enfermedades-neumococicas/>]
- Tests for Lung Disease [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/lung-tests>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/pruebas-pulmonares>]


Prevention and Risk Factors

- Ask the Experts: Pneumococcal [<https://www.immunize.org/ask-experts/topic/pneumococcal/>] (Immunization Action Coalition)

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine: What You Need to Know [<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/downloads/pcv.pdf>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - **PDF**
Also in Spanish [https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/vis/pdf/spanish_pcv.pdf]

- Pneumococcal Disease Causes and How It Spreads [<https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/causes/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV23): What You Need to Know [<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/downloads/ppv.pdf>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - **PDF**
Also in Spanish [https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/vis/spanish_ppsv.pdf]
- Pneumococcal Vaccination [<https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/vaccines/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Pneumococcus: Questions and Answers [<https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p4213.pdf>] (Immunization Action Coalition) - **PDF**

Treatments and Therapies

- Antibiotics: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/antibiotics.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/antibiotics.html>]

Statistics and Research

- Pneumococcal Disease Surveillance and Trends [<https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/php/surveillance/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Pneumococcal Infections [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Pneumococcal+Infections%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Health care resource use and costs associated with adult pneumococcal disease... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40735212>]
- Article: Pneumococcal Infection and Vaccination-Related Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Among Saudi Residents. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40732757>]
- Article: Evaluation of Streptococcus pneumoniae as a cause of acute otitis media... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40720527>]
- Pneumococcal Infections -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Pneumococcal+Infections%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [<https://www.cdc.gov/>]
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>]
- National Foundation for Infectious Diseases [<https://www.nfid.org/>]
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Pneumococcal Infections [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/vaccine-preventable-diseases/Pages/Pneumococcal-Infections.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/health-issues/vaccine-preventable-diseases/paginas/pneumococcal-infections.aspx>]
- Pneumococcal Vaccines (PCV, PPSV) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/pneumococcal-vaccine.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/pneumococcal-vaccine.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine: What You Need to Know [<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/downloads/pcv.pdf>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - **PDF**
Also in Spanish [https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/vis/pdf/spanish_pcv.pdf]
- Pneumococcal meningitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000607.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000607.htm>]
- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV23): What You Need to Know [<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/downloads/ppv.pdf>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - **PDF**
Also in Spanish [https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/vis/spanish_ppsv.pdf]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Chest x-ray [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003804.htm>]

Pneumococcal meningitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000607.htm>]

Sputum Gram stain [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003765.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Meningitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/meningitis.html>]

Pneumonia [<https://medlineplus.gov/pneumonia.html>]

Sepsis [<https://medlineplus.gov/sepsis.html>]

Sinusitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/sinusitis.html>]

Streptococcal Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/streptococcalinfections.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Pneumococcal Infections* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English

[<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/pneumococcalinfections.html>] on *Pneumococcal Infections*

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