

Disease Fact Sheet:

Pneumonia

What is pneumonia?

Pneumonia is an infection or inflammation of the smallest air passages in the lung (alveoli). These passages fill up with pus or mucus, preventing oxygen from reaching the blood. Pneumonia can be caused by a variety of bacteria or viruses.

Pneumonia may follow or accompany a cold, flu, or bronchitis. Some of the possible symptoms may include:

What are the signs and symptoms of Pneumonia?

- Fever (101° to 106°) and shaking chills.
- Productive cough with yellow, green, rust-colored, or bloody sputum (mucus coughed up from lungs).
- Pain in the chest wall, especially when coughing or taking a deep breath.
- Labored, shallow, or rapid breathing.
- Fatigue that is worse than you would expect from a cold.
- Sweating and flushed appearance.
- Loss of appetite or upset stomach.

How is Pneumonia spread?

By droplets spread, direct or oral contact from an infected person's nose, throat or indirectly through articles freshly soiled with respiratory discharges.