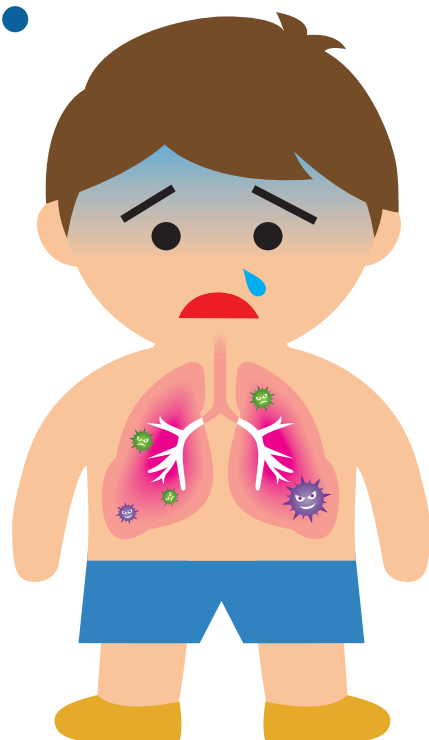


Does my child have pneumonia?

Pneumonia is an infection of one or both lungs that is caused by viruses, bacteria or chemical irritants. Sometimes children with an upper respiratory infection (the common cold) can later develop pneumonia, which affects the lower areas of the airways and can cause severe symptoms.



Bacterial pneumonia

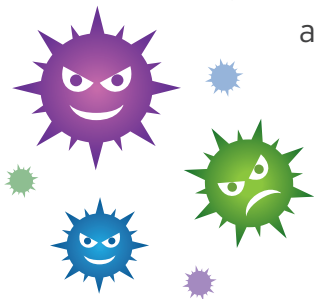
This type of pneumonia is caused by bacteria that works its way into the lungs — usually when the body is weakened by illness, malnutrition, old age or impaired immunity.

Viral pneumonia

This is caused by various viruses, including influenza (flu). Early symptoms are the same as bacterial pneumonia, which may be followed by increasing breathlessness, headache, muscle pain, weakness and

a worsening cough.

Viral pneumonia may put a person at risk for bacterial pneumonia.



Signs of pneumonia

- Fever and sweating
- Cough/cold symptoms
- Low energy or fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Wheezing
- Cough that produces greenish, yellow or bloody mucus
- Chest or abdominal pain that worsens with deep breathing or cough
- Rapid or difficulty with breathing
- Decreased oxygen levels

Treatment

Many patients experience mild pneumonia and may only require supportive treatment such as increased fluids, pain medication and antibiotics. Some cases require hospitalization and additional support. If you think your child has pneumonia, he or she should be evaluated by a medical provider.

Staying healthy

The best way to avoid getting sick is to minimize contact with other children who are sick with fever or cough symptoms and to practice good hand washing. It is also very important to keep your child hydrated if she or he does become ill.

