

Streptococcus pneumoniae

What is *Streptococcus pneumoniae*?

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. This disease causes blood infections, pneumonia, or inflammation of the coverings of the brain and spinal column (meningitis).

What are the signs and symptoms?

Symptoms can occur 1 to 3 days after exposure and may include the following:

- Fever
- Shaking or chills
- Headache
- Cough
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness
- Stiff neck
- Low levels of alertness

How is it treated?

Treatment of pneumococcal disease consists of using antibiotics. Unfortunately, pneumococcal bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics. Which makes treating this disease difficult.

Prevention:

The best way to protect against pneumococcal disease is to vaccinate. There are two kinds of pneumococcal vaccines in the United States. These vaccines protect against many but not all types of pneumococcal bacteria.

For more information:

Visit the CDC here: [Streptococcus pneumoniae - CDC Resource](#)

How does it spread?

The bacteria are spread to others through direct contact with respiratory secretions such as saliva, mucus, and respiratory droplets.



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4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471

281-750-6939

www.fbchhs.org



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