

# What should I know about pneumococcal disease?



You may have heard of pneumonia, which has many different causes. Infection with common bacteria found in the back of the nose and throat can be one of the causes for pneumonia. Infection with these bacteria can cause different types of diseases, including:

- **Pneumonia (noo-moh-nyah):** Infection in the lungs
- **Meningitis (men-in-ji-tis):** Infection in the lining of the brain and spinal cord
- **Bacteremia (bak-tuh-ree-mee-uh):** Infection in the blood

Some of the diseases described above may be associated with fever and cough. These bacteria can also cause a common but less severe ear infection.

## Am I at risk?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people in the following groups are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease. Check the box(es) that apply to you:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart disease  | <input type="checkbox"/> Whose spleen has been removed or does not work  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Certain types of cancer   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lung disease   | <input type="checkbox"/> Organ or bone marrow transplant   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney disease   | <input type="checkbox"/> Liver disease   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving medication or radiation treatment that affects the immune system | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcoholism  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leaks (leakage of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sickle cell disease (a certain blood disorder)                             |  |

HIV=human immunodeficiency virus; AIDS=acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

**If you are in any of the above groups, you may be at increased risk for pneumococcal disease. Talk to your health care professional about your specific risk.**

- YES, I want more information about pneumococcal disease.
- NO, I do not need information about pneumococcal disease at this time.



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