

# Pneumococcal Disease

## ***What is Pneumococcal Disease (PD)?***

PD infects the lungs, brain, spinal cord, ears, sinuses, or the blood. It can be fatal for those under age 5 and over age 65. The infection can also be serious in people of any age who have immune conditions, diabetes, alcoholism, or disease of the heart, lungs, kidneys, or spleen.

## ***How does PD spread?***

PD spreads through saliva or mucous when we sneeze, cough, or speak in close contact with others. It can be carried by people without any symptoms, which makes protecting yourself more challenging!



## ***How is PD treated?***

This infection is treated with antibiotics. However, some pneumococcal bacteria are resistant to antibiotics which makes them more difficult to treat.

## ***How can you protect yourself?***

Get vaccinated! Pneumococcal vaccines are routinely available for children, as well as adults over 65. Adults aged 19-64 with the health problems listed above, as well as cancers or organ transplants, should also be vaccinated. Vaccines are available through your primary care doctor, pharmacies, or health department.

***For more information visit:*** [www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/index.html)



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