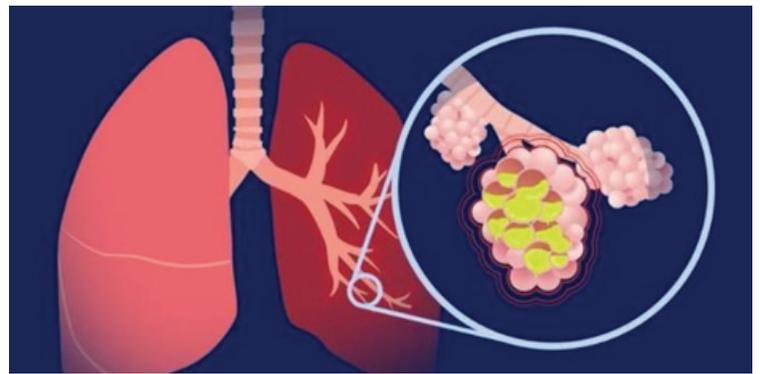


## Understanding Pneumococcal Pneumonia



Pneumonia is an infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs and may be caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi. Pneumococcal pneumonia is the most common type of bacterial pneumonia. It is a potentially serious disease that patients should not ignore as it can disrupt their lives for weeks and even land them in the hospital.

### What is pneumococcal pneumonia?

Pneumococcal pneumonia is caused by bacteria that live in the upper respiratory tract, and it can spread to others through coughing or close contact. The immune system naturally weakens with age, so even if you're healthy and active, being 65 or older is a key risk factor for pneumococcal pneumonia.

Other factors like certain chronic health conditions further increase pneumococcal pneumonia risk in adults 65 and older compared with healthy adults of the same age. With each chronic condition your risk increases further.

Increased Risk	
In adults 65+ with the following chronic conditions as compared to healthy adults 65+.	
COPD	7.7x
Asthma	5.9x
Heart Disease	3.8x
Diabetes	2.8x

### What are the symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia?

Common symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia may include:

- High fever
- Excessive sweating and shaking chills
- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath and chest pain

Certain symptoms such as cough and fatigue, can appear quickly and without warning. Severe cases of pneumococcal pneumonia can lead to hospitalization and can even be life threatening.

### Preventing pneumococcal pneumonia?

Pneumococcal pneumonia can strike anytime, anywhere. Vaccination can help prevent pneumococcal pneumonia. You can't catch the disease from getting vaccinated because pneumococcal vaccines do not contain live bacteria. If you are 65 or older, talk to your healthcare provider about pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination which is available at many doctor's offices and local pharmacies.



Learn more and complete your personal risk assessment for pneumococcal pneumonia at [Lung.org/pneumococcal](https://www.lung.org/pneumococcal)

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