

MYTHS & FACTS

Understanding the risks of **PNEUMOCOCCAL PNEUMONIA**

MYTH Pneumococcal pneumonia isn't serious; it's probably just a bad cold.

FACT **INCORRECT!** Pneumococcal pneumonia is serious.

IT KILLS
UP TO
1 IN 14 PEOPLE
WITH A HIGHER RISK FOR THE ELDERLY.

MYTH I'm healthy, so it doesn't affect me.

FACT **FALSE!** It can affect anyone. These lifestyle habits can also increase your risk:

- **ALCOHOLISM**
- **SMOKING**
- **ILLICIT DRUG USE**

MYTH By practicing good hygiene, I don't need a vaccine to help prevent it.

FACT **NOT TRUE!** Pneumococcal pneumonia can spread regardless of personal hygiene.



A vaccination adds another layer of protection.

MYTH I can only get pneumococcal pneumonia during the flu season.

FACT **NOT TRUE!** You can get it anytime.

MYTH Only the elderly can get it.

FACT

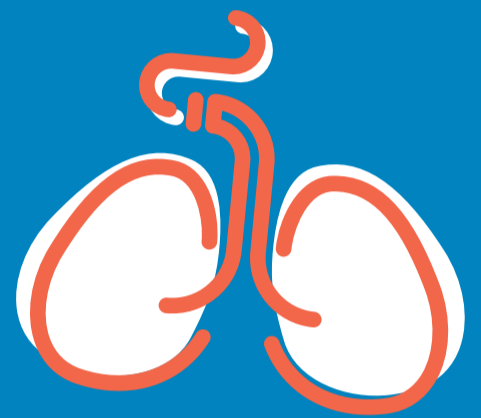
WRONG!

You're at risk if you're

≥50 or ≥18

with any of the following risk factors:

- Chronic lung disease (including **asthma** and COPD)
- Chronic heart disease
- Diabetes
- Certain neurological conditions
- Chronic liver disease
- Cancer
- Immunosuppression (e.g.: transplants, HIV)
- Alcoholism
- Smoking



MYTH It is easily treated with antibiotics.

FACT Actually, some bacteria that cause pneumococcal pneumonia have **become increasingly resistant to antibiotics.**



ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
about the recommended **PNEUMOCOCCAL PNEUMONIA VACCINES** that may be right for you.

Vaccination will not protect 100% of the people who receive the vaccine.
Vaccines don't reduce complications of pneumococcal disease, including death.