Pneumococcal Disease

What is Pneumococcal Disease?

Pneumococcal disease is caused by the bacteria Streptococcus pneumoniae, also known as pneumococcus. This leads to other illnesses including ear infections and meningitis.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms vary by the type of infection

Pneumonia:

- Fever and chills
- Cough
- Rapid breathing or difficulty breathing
- Chest pain

Meningitis:

- Stiff neck
- Fever
- Headache
- Photophobia
- Confusion

Bacteremia:

- Fever
- Chills
- Low alertness

Sepsis:

- Confusion
- Shortness of breath
- High heart rate
- Fever
- Clammy skin
- Extreme pain or discomfort

Transmission (How it spreads)

- Person-to-person by direct contact with respiratory secretions (saliva or mucus)

Diagnosis and Treatment

Testing of body fluid, such as blood or spinal fluid

For non-invasive disease in adults, urine may be tested

Treatment with broad spectrum antibiotics

Prevention:

- Vaccination!
- Vaccine is recommend for children at ages: 2, 4,6 and 15 months of age; and those aged 5 years who have not been previously vaccinated.

Who is at Risk?

Children younger than 2 years old

Those who are immunocompromised with certain diseases like sickle cell disease, HIV, and diabetes

Adults aged 65 and older, including those with chronic conditions including liver, kidney, or lung disease

---

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation Line: 785-317-0474

For more information, visit:
www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal