
Chlamydia Pneumoniae

What is it?

Chlamydial pneumonia refers to one of several types of pneumonia that can be caused by various types of the bacteria known as Chlamydia.

What are the symptoms?

The symptoms are pneumonia or bronchitis, gradual onset of cough with little or no fever. Less common signs are pharyngitis, laryngitis, and sinusitis. The illness can range from infection with no symptoms to severe disease.

Who is at risk?

All ages are at risk, but the disease is most common in school-age children. Re-infection throughout life appears to be common.

When do symptoms start?

On average, it takes 21 days after coming in contact with the infection.

When is it contagious?

Not clear, but at least until the infected person has been treated and symptoms are gone. Because people with this type of pneumonia are often not very ill, they may go untreated and outbreaks occur.

How does it spread?

It is spread from person-to-person through contact with droplets from the nose and throat and from soiled surfaces or objects.

How is it treated?

It can be treated with antibiotics.

How can the spread of Chlamydia Pneumoniae be reduced?

- Good hand washing is very important.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Put soiled tissues in the garbage right away.

What should I do if I get sick with Chlamydia Pneumoniae?

- Stay home and away from others until symptoms have gone.
- Get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids.
- See your doctor for antibiotic treatment.