



STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE FACT SHEET

WHAT IS STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE?

Streptococcus pneumoniae is caused by bacteria (“pneumococcus”). Pneumococcal infections are more common during the winter and in early spring. The bacteria are commonly found in the upper respiratory tract of healthy persons.

HOW DO YOU GET STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE?

Pneumococcus bacteria are spread through coughing, sneezing, and close contact with an infected person.

SYMPTOMS

Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, and weakness. Symptoms typically appear 1 to 3 days after being exposed.

TREATMENT

Treated with antibiotics. Discuss treatment options with your doctor.

PREVENTION

The pneumococcal vaccine can protect you from pneumococcal disease.
Wash your hands often with soap and water
Do not touch eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
Avoid close contact with people who are ill.

HEALTH DISTRICT EFFORTS

The Delaware General Health District (DGHD) offers the pneumococcal vaccine. Please call (740)203-2040 to determine if you need the vaccine and to schedule an appointment. Reports of suspected and confirmed cases of disease are made to the DGHD. The DGHD investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education.