Symptoms of Pneumonia

by Rosalyn Carson-DeWitt, MD

En Español (Spanish Version)

Pneumonia is a serious infection that should be treated promptly. Contact your doctor if you or your child have pneumonia symptoms.

Effects of Pneumonia on the Lungs

The symptoms of pneumonia include the following:

- Fever or below normal temperature (hypothermia)
- Chills
- Sweating
- Rapid heart rate
- Rapid breathing
- Cough, may be dry or may produce sputum
- Sputum, may appear clear, greenish-yellow, or rusty
- Chest or abdominal pain
- Shortness of breath
- Pain through to the back
- Pain with deep breathing
- Rattle sound in the chest
- Loss of energy, fatigue
- Weakness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Headache
- General muscle aches and pains
- Lack of appetite

Severe symptoms that are common in adults, especially the elderly, include:
• Bluish color of the nails or lips due to diminished oxygen in the blood
• Mental confusion (This is common in the elderly.)

Severe symptoms that are more common in babies and young children:

• Flaring nostrils with each breath
• Chest or ribs may suck in with each breath
• Grunting sound with breathing

REFERENCES:


