

Your child may have been exposed to:**Pneumonia**

Many different viruses and some bacteria can cause pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs). Pneumonia can be a complication of other illnesses.

If you think your child has pneumonia, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Keep your child home until fever is gone (without the use of a fever reducing medicine) and your child is healthy enough for routine activities.

Do not give aspirin or salicylate-containing medicines to anyone under 18 years of age.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Symptoms

Your child may have a runny nose, cough, fever, rapid breathing, and chest pain.

Spread

- By sneezing or coughing.
- By touching contaminated hands, objects, or surfaces.

Contagious period

Shortly before and while your child has symptoms.

Call your health care provider

- If your child has a high fever, sore throat, or cough that does not go away.

Antibiotics do not work for illnesses caused by a virus, including colds and certain respiratory infections.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the mouth or nose. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Do not share anything that goes into the mouth, such as drinking cups, straws, and water bottles.
- Clean and disinfect anything that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. Use a product that kills germs.
- Do not expose your child to second-hand tobacco smoke. Smoke increases the risk for serious respiratory infections and middle ear infections.