

Sometimes the symptoms of bacterial pneumonia happen gradually.

Sometimes they happen suddenly. A person may experience shaking chills, chattering teeth, severe chest pain, and a cough that produces rust-colored or greenish sputum. Body temperature may rise as high as  $40.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $105^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

The person sweats profusely, and breathing and pulse rate increase rapidly. Lips and nail beds may have a bluish color due to lack of oxygen in the blood. In the most serious cases, the person may be confused or delirious.

*Streptococcus pneumoniae* is the most common cause of bacterial pneumonia. It is one form of pneumonia for which a vaccine is available.

## Viral Pneumonia

Half of all pneumonias are believed to be caused by viruses. More and more viruses are being identified as the cause of respiratory infection. Some produce pneumonia, especially in children. Most of these pneumonias are not serious and last a short time. The virus invades the lungs and multiplies. There are almost no physical signs of lung tissue becoming filled with fluid. Many people who get viral pneumonia are those who have breathing conditions or who are pregnant.

The initial symptoms of viral pneumonia are fever, a dry cough, headache, muscle pain, and weakness. Within 12 to 36 hours, there is increasing breathlessness. The cough becomes worse and produces a small amount of mucus. There is a high fever, and a person's lips may look bluish. In extreme cases, the patient has a desperate need for air and extreme breathlessness. Sometimes viral pneumonia is complicated by an invasion of bacteria, and the patient has two types of pneumonia.



*The symptoms of pneumonia can range from mild to serious, depending on the age of the person and the type of pneumonia.*