

# Pneumonia or Bronchitis?

Get proper care by understanding these respiratory diseases

Viral Pneumonia	Bacterial Pneumonia	Things to Know	“Walking Pneumonia”	Acute Bronchitis
A viral infection of the lower airways	A bacterial infection of the lower airways	◀ What it is ▶	A bacterial infection of the lower airways	Inflammation of the upper airways, or bronchi
Any of several viruses	Any of several bacteria	◀ What causes it ▶	Most often, the Mycoplasma pneumonia bacterium	Viruses, bacteria or allergic reaction
Low-grade fever, nuisance cough, runny nose, possible headache	High fever, phlegmy cough, difficulty breathing, chills, chest pain	◀ Common symptoms ▶	Cough, sore throat, fatigue, low-grade fever, chills	Loose and phlegmy cough, wheezing, sometimes low-grade fever
A few weeks	A few weeks	◀ How long it will last ▶	Several days or weeks	A few weeks
Not very sick; between coughing episodes you may feel all right	Terrible; it may hurt to breathe or you may have abdominal pain	◀ How you'll feel ▶	So-so; the symptoms are generally mild, so people often go on with their daily routines	Not very sick; children are more likely to wheeze and are often “happy wheezers” who have no difficulty breathing
Antivirals can help for some viruses if given in the first 48 hours, but the primary treatment is rest	Different antibiotics, depending on the bacterial strain, symptoms and health of the patient	◀ Treatment ▶	Antibiotics, although many cases of walking pneumonia get better with rest	Most cases are viral and can't be treated with antibiotics; rest usually resolves these cases
Yes	Yes	◀ Is there a vaccine? ▶	No	No
Yes	Yes	◀ Should you see a doctor? ▶	Yes	Yes

**When to seek medical attention**

Cough persists more than two weeks

Increasing fever and/or chills

Increasing difficulty breathing

Faster breathing

Fast heart rate

Persistent wheezing

Chest pain