

Your child may have been exposed to:

Pneumococcal Infection

Pneumococcus (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*) is a bacteria that can cause ear and lung infections.

If you think your child has a pneumococcal infection, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Childcare and school aged children do not need to stay home if they are healthy enough for routine activities.

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

Symptoms

Your child may have fever, ear pain, or pull on their ear. Sometimes there is ear drainage and redness. Your child may have a change in behavior or eating habits.

Spread

- By coughing or sneezing.
- By touching hands, objects, or surfaces contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth.

Contagious period

Unknown.

Call your health care provider

- If your child has a high fever or ear pain that does not stop. Antibiotics may be prescribed.

Prevention

- In Minnesota, all children 2 years of age or younger enrolled in childcare must be vaccinated with the pneumococcal vaccine or have a legal exemption.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. 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 nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- 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.