



## **STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE FACT SHEET**

### **WHAT IS STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE?**

Streptococcus pneumoniae is caused by bacteria (“pneumococcus”). Pneumococcal infections are more common during the winter and in early spring. The bacteria are commonly found in the upper respiratory tract of healthy persons.

### **HOW DO YOU GET STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE?**

Pneumococcus bacteria are spread through coughing, sneezing, and close contact with an infected person.

### **SYMPTOMS**

Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, and weakness. Symptoms typically appear 1 to 3 days after being exposed.

### **TREATMENT**

Treated with antibiotics. Discuss treatment options with your doctor.

### **PREVENTION**

The pneumococcal vaccine can protect you from pneumococcal disease.  
Wash your hands often with soap and water  
Do not touch eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands  
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze  
Avoid close contact with people who are ill.

### **HEALTH DISTRICT EFFORTS**

The Delaware Public Health District (DPHD) offers the pneumococcal vaccine. Please call (740) 203-2040 to determine if you need the vaccine and to schedule an appointment. Reports of suspected and confirmed cases of disease are made to the DPHD. The DPHD investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education.