## MYTHS®FACTS

Understanding the risks of PNEUMOCOCCAL PNEUMONIA



Pneumococcal pneumonia isn't serious; it's probably just a bad cold.

FACT

**INCORRECT!** 

Pneumococcal pneumonia is serious.

1 IN 14 PEOPLE

WITH A HIGHER RISK FOR THE ELDERLY.

MYTH

I'm healthy, so it doesn't affect me.

FACT

**FALSE!** It can affect anyone. These lifestyle habits can also increase your risk:

- ALCOHOLISM
- SMOKING
- ILLICIT DRUG USE

MYTH

By practicing good hygiene, I don't need a vaccine to help prevent it.

FACT

## **NOT TRUE!**

Pneumococcal pneumonia can spread regardless of personal hygiene.



Pneumococcal vaccination adds another layer of protection.

**MYTH** 

I can only get pneumococcal pneumonia during the flu season.

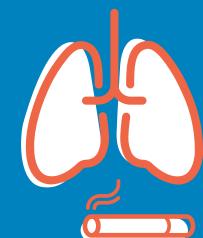
**FACT** 

**NOT TRUE!** 

You can get it anytime.

MYTH

Only the elderly can get it.



**FACT** 

**WRONG!** 

You're at risk if you're

50+0118+ WITH A RISK FACTOR

**Risk factors:** 

- Chronic lung disease (including asthma and COPD)
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Immunosuppression (for example: from transplants, HIV)
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Certain neurological conditions
- Alcoholism
- Living in long-term care facilities
- Smoking

MYTH

It is easily treated with antibiotics.

FACT

Actually, some bacteria that cause pneumococcal pneumonia have become increasingly resistant to antibiotics.

## ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

about the recommended **PNEUMOCOCCAL PNEUMONIA VACCINES** that may be right for you.

Vaccination will not protect 100% of the people who receive the vaccine. Vaccines don't reduce complications of pneumococcal disease, including death.

