

Mayo Clinic Minute

Is pneumonia bacterial or viral?

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	When you have a respiratory illness, you might think ...
Vandana Bhide, M.D. Internal Medicine Mayo Clinic	“Well, you know, I’ve got a bad cold. I’ll get over it.”
Vivien Williams	But Dr. Vandana Bhide says, sometimes, you don’t get better.
Vandana Bhide, M.D. at 32:02	“If somebody’s coughing up a lot of stuff, it may just be the tail end of a cold, but if it doesn’t go away, it may be a pneumonia.”
Vivien Williams	Pneumonia, a lung infection, comes in two forms: bacterial, which can often be treated with antibiotics, and viral, which can’t. It’s tough to tell the difference. Both can cause symptoms that include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and both make you feel run-down.
Vivien Williams	The strain called walking pneumonia causes similar symptoms, but you’re still able to push through the day.
Vandana Bhide, M.D.	“That’s caused by a very specific bacteria. It is treatable.”
Vivien Williams	Doctors diagnose pneumonia by lab tests and chest X-rays. The pneumonia vaccine helps protect you against certain strains.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Vivien Williams.