



Bronchitis

Your child may have been exposed to bronchitis. Bronchitis/bronchiolitis are respiratory illnesses caused by viruses or bacteria.

If you think your child has bronchitis:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Keep your child home from childcare and school until fever is gone without the use of a fever reducing medicine and your child is healthy enough for routine activities. Most children will get better on their own without medication.
- **Do not give aspirin or salicylate-containing medicines to anyone under 18 years of age.**
- For more information, call Hennepin County Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or your local health department.

Parent/Guardian information

Symptoms

Your child may have a runny nose and fever. Cough starts out dry and harsh and becomes looser after your child has been sick for a while. Your child may have a sore throat.

The cough can last 1 to 2 weeks.

Spread

- By sneezing or coughing.
- By touching contaminated hands, objects, or surfaces.

Contagious period

Shortly before and while your child has symptoms.

Call your health care provider

- If your child has a high fever (generally 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater) or trouble breathing that does not go away.
- If your child has a sore throat or cough that lasts more than 3 weeks.

Antibiotics do not work for illnesses caused by viruses, including some types of bronchitis.

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Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing by using a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash right away.
- Wash hands often, but especially after touching anything that could come in contact with secretions from the mouth or nose. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Using a product that kills germs, clean and disinfect anything that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth.
- Do not share anything that goes into the mouth, such as drinking cups, straws, and water bottles.
- Do not expose your child to second-hand tobacco smoke. Smoke increases the risk for serious respiratory infections and middle ear infections.

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