

Pneumonia Summary Sheet



What do I need to know?

- Contributes to 25% to 30% of deaths among children under 5 in developing countries.
- 90% of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) deaths are attributed to pneumonia.
- Pneumonia is fatal in 10% to 20% of untreated cases
- Respiratory complications from other diseases such as measles, whooping cough, and diphtheria are also considered ARIs.
- Children under 5 generally suffer between 4 and 8 ARIs per year.

What is the case definition?

- Any case of fever with cough and rapid breathing.
- 50 or more breaths per minute.

When do I need to worry?

- When the following risk factors are present:
- Malnutrition, vitamin A deficiency
 - Chilling in infants, poor shelter, overcrowding
 - Indoor pollution, bad ventilation

How do I plan a prevention program?

- Reduce the risk factors for developing pneumonia.
- Improve nutritional status of children.
- Administer vitamin A supplements.
- Reduce overcrowding.
- Limit infant chilling
- Provide proper shelter
- Distribute blankets
- Immunize against measles, diphtheria, and whooping cough.

Surveillance

- Diligent collection of morbidity data using the case definition.
- Differentiation made between upper and lower respiratory infections preferred but not required.
- Collection of mortality data.

How do I work with the community?

- Train mothers to identify the risk factors of pneumonia.
- Encourage the appropriate use of antibiotics.

This Document has been adapted from Médecins Sans Frontières: *Refugee Health, An approach to emergency situations (1997)*