

Quick Facts On Pneumonia

- Pneumonia kills more children than any other illness – more than AIDS, Malaria, and Measles combined.
- Over two million children die from pneumonia each year, accounting for one in five deaths among children under five years of age.¹
- The most common causes of severe pneumonia in children under 5 in the developing world are *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus Influenzae* type b (Hib).¹
- Together, *S. pneumoniae* and Hib cause more than half of all life-threatening pneumonia in children under 5.
- Key prevention measures to reducing deaths due to pneumonia include: vaccination, promotion of adequate nutrition, risk modification and effective case management.¹
- Vaccinations against both pneumococcal and Hib pneumonia in the first year of life can greatly reduce pneumonia in children and could save millions of lives.²
- Pneumococcal and Hib vaccinations have been proven safe and effective for preventing pneumonia deaths.³⁻⁴
- WHO recommends that Hib vaccines be included in all routine infant immunization programs and that countries make inclusion of pneumococcal vaccines in national routine immunization programs a priority.³⁻⁴

References

1. UNICEF/WHO, Pneumonia: The Forgotten Killer of Children. 2006. <http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Pneumonia_The_Forgotten_Killer_of_Children.pdf>
2. Hib Initiative. “Background on Pneumonia.” Press release. <<http://www.hibaction.org/news/2006/09-18.php>>.
3. WHO Position paper on Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines Weekly Epidemiological Review, 23 March, 2007
4. WHO Position paper on *Haemophilus influenzae* type b conjugate vaccines. Weekly Epidemiological Record, Nov 24, 2006; 47 (81) 445-52. <<http://www.who.int/wer>>