

# Meet the Superbugs

## *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

**Also called:** *Pneumococcus* **Say it:** Strep-tuh-KO-kuhs New-mo-nee-uh

**About:** Commonly found in the respiratory tract, and can cause life-threatening infections. Have developed resistance to many common antibiotics.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Shape:** Double berry<sup>3</sup> **Year identified:** 1881<sup>3</sup>

**Potential threats include:** Pneumonia, ear infections, blood stream infections and sepsis<sup>1</sup>

**One way to fight this superbug:** Work with your doctor to stay up to date with vaccinations<sup>4</sup>

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Pneumococcal Disease. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/index.html> Last accessed August 2020.
2. CDC Pneumococcal Disease: Drug Resistance. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/drug-resistance.html> Last accessed August 2020.
3. CDC Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Pneumococcal Disease. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pink-book/pneumo.html> Last accessed August 2020.
4. World Health Organization (WHO). Antibiotic resistance: Key facts. 5 February 2018. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance> Last accessed August 2020.

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