



Walking Pneumonia

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Why in News?

Recently, a mysterious influenza-like illness termed as **Walking Pneumonia** has gripped school children in China.

- The outbreak's exact cause is unknown, but medical experts speculate it might be linked to **mycoplasma pneumoniae**, a common bacterial infection known as 'walking pneumonia.'
- Chinese authorities assert it involves familiar pathogens like **mycoplasma pneumoniae**, [adenovirus](#), and [influenza virus](#), **ruling out novel pathogens like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus**.

What is Walking Pneumonia?

- **About:**
 - Walking pneumonia, also known as atypical pneumonia, is a **milder form of pneumonia** caused by bacteria like **Mycoplasma pneumoniae**.
 - It's termed "walking" pneumonia because its symptoms are often mild enough that **individuals can continue their daily activities** without requiring bed rest or hospitalization.
 - The condition is **more prevalent among children, particularly those aged 5 to 15**, who are in close contact at schools and can easily transmit the infection to family members.
- **Transmission:**
 - Transmission occurs through airborne **droplets from coughing**, sneezing, or talking, making close contact a significant factor in spreading the infection.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Typical symptoms include a persistent cough, fever, sore throat, headache, runny nose, ear pain, and sometimes chest discomfort due to coughing.
- **Treatment:**
 - Treatment typically involves antibiotics to target the specific bacteria causing the infection.

What are the Initiatives Related to Pneumonia?

- **India:**
 - [Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully \(SAANS\)](#): The aim is to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15% of deaths of children under the age of five annually.
 - The government aims to achieve a target of reducing pneumonia deaths among children to less than three per 1,000 live births by 2025.
 - In 2014, India launched '**Integrated Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (IAPPD)**' to undertake collaborative efforts towards prevention of diarrhoea and Pneumonia related under-five deaths.
- **Global:**
 - The [World Health Organisation](#) and [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) had

launched an integrated Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) with the objective of eliminating preventable childhood deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea by 2025.

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