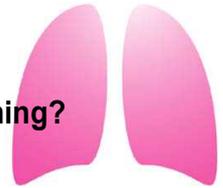




Incidence of mycoplasma pneumonia on campus



Have you had fever that was followed by over a week of persistent coughing? If yes, then it might not be just a cold, it is better to consult a physician.

Mycoplasma pneumonia is a respiratory infection caused by the bacteria, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. Although this mycoplasma pneumonia incidence occurs every year, reports indicate an increase in the number of patients since the summer of 2011.

What are the symptoms of mycoplasma pneumoniae?



Symptoms can include fever, general malaise, headache, and dry cough. In some cases, cough begins as the disease advances. The disease is characterized by persistent cough for 3–4 weeks even after the fever has decreased. Many people infected with mycoplasma develop only bronchitis followed by mild symptoms; however, some develop pneumonia which can become very severe.

How does the infection spread?

Causes of infection include inhaling the spray of droplets released when a patient coughs or sneezes at a close range (droplet transmission) or by coming into direct or indirect contact with a patient (contact infection). The infection occurs after a long incubation period and usually lasts about 2–3 weeks.

How can I be careful to avoid infection?

Since the route of infection is by inhalation or contact, which is as same as with influenza or common cold, it is important to wash your hands properly and routinely.

Since the pathogen is spread by droplets release during coughing and sneezing, people having fever and symptoms must ensure that they wear a mask, regardless of whether the diagnosis has been confirmed. If you think that you are about to cough or sneeze when you are not wearing a mask, then please ensure that you cover your nose and mouth with your hand or elbow, or a handkerchief or tissue, and turn to face in a direction where no one else is present.



Is there a method of treatment?

The disease can be treated by an antibiotics. Over-the-counter cold medication will not kill the bacteria; therefore, please visit medical institutions whenever cough or other symptoms persist.



★If you are diagnosed with mycoplasma pneumonia, what do you have to do?

If you have fever or a severe cough, please contact the office of the student affairs and rest at home. If the fever reduces and the cough becomes less severe, then you may attend school, but until the cough has completely subsided, ensure that you always wear a mask when leaving your home.