

Health Highlights | Walking Pneumonia (Audio)

<<(I'M TIM DITMAN WITH TODAY'S HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS FROM OSF HEALTHCARE. NORMALLY... SCHOOL-AGED KIDS – TEENAGERS – AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE WHAT'S CALLED “WALKING PNEUMONIA.”

IT'S CAUSED BY MYCOPLASMA (**new-MOH-knee-aye**) PNEUMONIAE – A BACTERIUM THAT CAUSES RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS. THE C-D-C REPORTS TEST POSITIVITY FOR WALKING PNEUMONIA INCREASED IN THE LATE SPRING OF 2024 AND REMAINED HIGH.

THE TERM WALKING PNEUMONIA WAS COINED BECAUSE IT'S POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO BE WALKING AROUND WITH THE INFECTION... AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT. DR. KEITH HANSON WITH OSF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ILLINOIS – SAYS EVERY YEAR SOME STRAINS OF ILLNESS... OR A PARTICULAR VIRUS... ARE MORE COMMON THAN OTHERS. RIGHT NOW – IT'S PNEUMONIA.

TAKE SOT | DR. KEITH HANSON | GENERAL PEDIATRICS UNIT MEDICAL DIRECTOR | OSF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ILLINOIS

"What's a little unusual about this year, is we're seeing that same bacteria causing pneumonia in kids that are younger than usual, and the severity of the illness is more. We're seeing more kids admitted to the hospital with pneumonia, and they're definitely younger than that typical age range like preschoolers and even some infants," Dr. Hanson says.

DR. HANSON SAYS AS IS THE CASE WITH BACTERIAL INFECTIONS – THERE ARE ANTIBIOTICS TO TREAT WALKING PNEUMONIA. THE HOPE IS TO SHORTEN THE ILLNESS AND MAKE IT LESS SEVERE... WHILE DECREASING THE CHANCE OF SPREADING THE INFECTION TO OTHERS.

WITH TODAY'S HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS – I'M TIM DITMAN. >>)