



## INFORMATION

**Important Notification: Warning from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia about the Pneumonia Cases in China**

On 24 November 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a Press Release concerning the upsurge of respiratory illnesses among children in Northern China. This release was supported by an undiagnosed mycoplasma pneumonia signal that was reported on the official website of *ProMed International Society for Infectious Diseases* on 22 November 2023.

Following up on this press release and as a form of government alert in anticipating the spread of pneumonia in Indonesia, the Ministry of Health through the Directorate General of Disease Prevention and Control urgently issued a Circular Letter No. PM.03.01/C/4632/2023 concerning Awareness of Mycoplasma Pneumonia in Indonesia. The regulation is addressed to all Heads of Provincial Health Services, Heads of Regency/City Health Services, Directors/Heads of Hospitals, Heads of Port Health Offices and Heads of Community Health Centers in Indonesia, and urges the medical personnels and staffs to stay alert and be prepared for this disease. It is reported that the exact cause of this disease which attacks the respiratory system is yet undefined. However, based on epidemiological reports, there has been an increase in cases of Mycoplasma Pneumonia by 40% in China.

Pneumonia is lung inflammation caused by infection from viruses, bacteria, fungal infections, or SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19. The process of Pneumonia's spreading is through coughs or sneezes, and infected patients will have respiratory droplets that contain the bacteria, and people can get infected if they breathe in those droplets. There are several common symptoms of Pneumonia such as;

- Cough with phlegm
- Fever and shortness of breath
- Chest pain when breathing or coughing
- Nausea and vomiting
- Loss of appetite, and body that gets tired easily.

Pneumonia not only will be affected to children, but also to adults. Pneumonia can be prevented in several ways including undergoing influenza or COVID vaccination, maintaining personal hygiene, for example, washing hands frequently, no nose or mouth touching with unwashed hands, and avoiding contact with people who are sick. Pneumonia treatment will be adjusted to the cause and severity experienced by the patient, but Pneumonia due to bacterial infection will be treated with antibiotics.

According to the Data from the *ProMed International Society for Infectious Diseases* on 30 November 2023, pneumonia cases are spread in China and Europe specifically the Netherlands. The number of children reported suffering from pneumonia in China reaches 7,000 per day, while in the Netherlands a total of 80 out of every 100,000 Dutch children aged between 5 and 14 have been infected with pneumonia.

The Ministry of Health also addressed to the Port Health Office (Kantor Kesehatan Pelabuhan/KKP) to monitor the development of cases and affected countries at the global level, to increase early awareness by monitoring cases of suspected pneumonia, and to increase supervision of people (crew, personnel and passengers), transport equipment, luggage, the environment around the port, vectors, disease-carrying animals at ports, airports and cross-border posts, especially those originating from an infected country.

For any prevention, we encourage our members to be conscious and prevent this disease by carrying out influenza or COVID vaccinations, wearing facemask, maintaining hygiene, and avoiding direct contact with the infected patients.

References:

- *ProMed International Society for Infectious Diseases* on 22 November 2023 concerning the Pneumonia Cases in China  
<https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?place=8713261,353#promedmailmap>
- World Health Organization (WHO) Press Release on 24 November 2023 concerning the Pneumonia Cases in China  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON494>

If you require the copy of this regulation, please do not hesitate to contact [research@ibai.or.id](mailto:research@ibai.or.id)  
Thank you for your attention and we hope this information would be valuable to you.

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