

## Coughing Up Mucus

**M**ucus refers to the secretion that is produced by the mucus membranes that line the sinuses, nose, mouth, throat, **lungs** and the gastrointestinal tract. The secretions from the mucus membranes in the nose humidify the inhaled air, and trap environmental irritants, allergens or pathogens. Phlegm, which is also referred to as sputum, is basically the congealed mucus that contains these irritants. Whenever congealed mucus gets accumulated in the throat or lungs, it needs to be coughed up.



This is basically a way of expelling the irritants or disease-causing agents from the respiratory system. Though production of mucus is an immune response, persistent coughing that is caused due to excessive production of phlegm in throat or lungs is undoubtedly a very annoying problem. At times, excessive amounts of mucus can block the airways and affect one's breathing. If a person has been persistently coughing up mucus, he/she must get a medical checkup done. In a majority of cases, pathogenic infections are responsible for the increased production of mucus. Given below is some information on the medical conditions that may be responsible for causing excessive production of phlegm.

### Preventive Measures prevention, as They Say, is Always Better Than Cure

Here are a few things to keep in mind to stay away from illnesses in general. The aggressiveness of pneumonia makes the prevention of this disease imperative. Once a person is beset with pneumonia a lot of time and energy is expended in order to recover completely.

### What is Walking Pneumonia?

Walking pneumonia is caused by the bacterial organism known as mycoplasma pneumoniae, and is hence also referred to with this name. The term walking pneumonia stems from the fact that people with this mild form of infection are not sick enough to be hospitalized. They can continue with their daily activities without having to take bed rest or undergo serious medical treatment. However, this form of lung infection is highly contagious, and can spread from one person to another, especially in places like schools, day cares, work places, and prisons. This is the reason why it is also known as community-acquired pneumonia. Identifying the symptoms of this infection can help in providing immediate treatment and preventing the spread of this contagious infection.

### Treatment Options

Pathogenic infections emerge as the main contributory factor behind accumulation of mucus in throat or lungs which is why affected individuals must get a thorough medical checkup done. Doctors usually conduct chest X-rays, sputum analysis and blood tests to diagnose the underlying condition. Mucus color also provides valuable insights on the nature of infection. For instance, yellow or green mucus usually indicates viral or bacterial infections. While medical treatment usually involves the use of drugs, expectorants or decongestants, one can also try some remedies for getting rid of phlegm in throat. These remedies may help in loosening mucus. Here are some home remedies that may help to effectively expel phlegm.

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**Dry Cough at Night** A dry or wet cough is not a disease but a symptom of some other medical conditions that might affect the body. It may interfere with sleep, and daily functioning of the affected person. In most cases, a dry cough (also known as a non-productive...



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While production of mucus is a protective mechanism that the body employs to trap the pathogens or allergens, expectoration is a reflex action that helps to expel phlegm from the body. Though swallowing phlegm is not harmful, it would be best to avoid swallowing phlegm. While medical treatment or home remedies may help in expelling mucus, one must also make the right lifestyle choices so as to prevent the accumulation of phlegm in throat or lungs in future.

### Symptoms of Scarred Lungs

Chest Pain.

### Some People Might Experience Chest Pain

Along with pain, it also causes discomfort in the chest, and areas surrounding it. When one engages in an exercise, or even mundane household chores, one may be disturbed by the breathing discomfort caused.

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