

# Respiratory Infection



*Lungs begin to fill with oral bacteria*



*Respiratory infection*



*Instructions about homecare products*



*Understanding respiratory infections*

## **Periodontal disease and respiratory infections**

If you have periodontal disease, you should know that it can contribute to respiratory infections.

Evidence suggests that the bacteria that cause periodontal disease can contribute to, or worsen, infections such as pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

These bacteria enter your lungs through normal breathing and swallowing, where they can multiply and inflame lung tissues.

This is especially true if you smoke, have a weakened immune system, or if you already have a respiratory condition.

If we determine that you have periodontal disease, we will recommend an appropriate treatment plan. We will review your home care and schedule you for regular cleanings.

We may recommend other procedures to remove the source of bacteria and allow your gums to heal.

By caring for your dental health, you will reduce your risk of respiratory infection and increase your overall health.