

RSV in Infants and Young Children

RSV is a common respiratory virus that can cause severe illness in some people. Those most affected include older adults, babies, and young children. If you have a baby or young child, you need to know about RSV.

RSV stands for respiratory syncytial virus. This infection affects the lungs and airways.

It's more active in the fall and winter, and often causes mild, cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, cough, and sneezing. Very young infants may have symptoms such as irritability, decreased activity, or trouble breathing.

Almost all children get RSV before age 2, and they often recover on their own within a couple weeks.

But RSV can become severe in some children, especially in infants and children with weak immune systems. When RSV becomes severe, it may lead to a hospital stay.

To help protect your child from RSV, make sure they get immunized if they're eligible. If they get sick, keep an eye out for signs of serious illness, such as trouble breathing, dehydration, or pain in their ears, chest or sinuses.

RSV can start out mild and become severe quickly. Contact your child's care team if you notice any concerning symptoms so they can provide prompt treatment.

RSV can infect anyone, but babies and young children are at higher risk. Talk with your child's care team about ways you can help protect your child this RSV season. They are here to help you and your family stay as healthy as possible.