

# RSV Disease



## What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that can cause serious illness in infants, young children, and adults ages 60 years and older.

People can get sick with RSV many times throughout their lives.

Symptoms of an RSV infection include cough, sneezing, fever, wheezing, and runny nose. Most of the time, it feels like a common cold. However, an infection with RSV can become more serious, leading to hospitalization and sometimes death.

**Every year in the United States, RSV causes up to...**

### **IN INFANTS:**

**80,000 hospitalizations  
100 to 300 deaths**

### **IN OLDER ADULTS:**

**160,000 hospitalizations  
6,000 to 10,000 deaths**

## How does RSV spread?

Everyone is able to get RSV and spread it to others, no matter how old you are. Since RSV can feel like a common cold, you may not even know you're sick with RSV. Many people spread the virus without knowing.

### **RSV is spread when:**

- An infected person coughs or sneezes
- You get virus droplets from a cough or sneeze in your eyes, nose, or mouth
- You have direct contact with the virus, such as kissing the face of someone with RSV
- You touch a surface that has the virus on it then touch your face before washing your hands

People infected with RSV are usually contagious for 3 to 8 days.

You can actually begin spreading the virus a day or two before having any symptoms.

Infants and people with weakened immune systems can keep spreading the virus (for up to a month) even after they don't have symptoms.

RSV can survive for many hours on hard surfaces such as tables, crib rails, and door knobs.

## Protect yourself and your loved ones. Do your part to prevent the spread of RSV!

- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly
- Disinfect surfaces often
- Always cough or sneeze into your elbow
- If you are eligible, get vaccinated!

## **REMEMBER!**

**Infants and older adults can get very sick from an RSV infection.**

**Anyone can get sick with RSV and spread it to others.**

# RSV Vaccines

for pregnant patients and infants



## HISTORY OF RSV VACCINES

For decades, RSV has been a known threat to infants, young children, and older adults.

Research for RSV vaccines began in the 1960s.

In infants, RSV causes up to 80,000 hospitalizations and 100 to 300 deaths per year in the United States.

**In 2023, two RSV immunizations were approved to protect infants from severe RSV disease.**

**Abrysvo™ (RSVpreF) is given to pregnant patients.**

**Beyfortus™ (nirsevimab) is given to infants.**

In most cases, only one of these immunizations is needed to protect the infant from severe RSV disease.

*Either the mother should get Abrysvo (during pregnancy) or the infant should get Beyfortus (after birth).*

Abrysvo is given to pregnant patients who are 32 to 36 weeks pregnant, during the months of September through January.

This vaccine provides protection against RSV to the baby for up to 6 months after birth.

Beyfortus is given to infants during their first 8 months of life, when an infant is born or entering RSV season. Some children are eligible for a second immunization during their second RSV season.

This immunization provides protection against RSV to the baby for up to 150 days.

**Pregnant patients should discuss RSV immunizations with their health care providers.**