

# RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

## What is RSV?

RSV - or respiratory syncytial virus - is a virus that usually causes symptoms similar to other respiratory illnesses, like COVID-19 or the flu.

Most people recover from RSV on their own.

RSV can be life-threatening for young babies and children, especially those with underlying conditions.



## Understanding your options

RSV season is generally from November to April. There are two safe, effective ways to help protect young children and seniors:

### Antibodies

Given to newborns shortly after birth. Helps protect against lower respiratory tract infections caused by RSV.

### Vaccine

Covered for those 75 years of age or older.

Talk to a healthcare provider about eligibility. RSV antibodies are covered for high-risk infants and children.

## Serious symptoms

Seek emergency care if your child has one or more of these serious RSV and other respiratory illness symptoms:

Wheezing

Coughing deeply or frequently

Trouble breathing, or breathing faster than normal

Difficulty breastfeeding or bottle feeding

Blue lips or fingernails

Not eating or drinking



## Preventing respiratory illnesses

You can help to protect your community from RSV and other illnesses, like COVID-19 and the flu.



Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer.



Wear a well-fitting mask at indoor gatherings.



Stay home if you or your child is sick.