

# KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT RSV

**Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a very contagious virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms.** It can lead to serious illness and hospitalization for infants and some older adults. It is a common illness that infects almost all babies by the age of two.

## Signs

- Runny nose
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Decrease in appetite
- Wheezing
- Difficulty breathing

## Spread

- RSV is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes and droplets land in your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- It can also spread by direct contact with an infected person, like shaking hands or kissing the face of a child with RSV.
- It can also spread through touching objects, such as touching a doorknob and then touching your face.

## Vaccine

- Vaccines are available to protect adults over 60 from severe RSV.
- Monoclonal antibody products are available to protect infants and young children from severe RSV.
- Monoclonal antibodies work similarly to vaccines. They add an extra layer of protection that helps the body fight RSV infections and keeps kids from getting very sick.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that all children younger than eight months old get a monoclonal antibody product to protect them in their first RSV season.



## Facts

- RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization in babies under 12 months of age.
- RSV season usually begins in the early fall and peaks during the late winter.
- RSV can survive for many hours on hard surfaces such as tables and crib rails.



**Vaccinate now, protect yourself and others.**

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