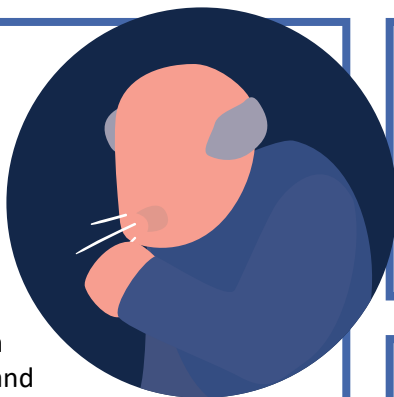


# RSV



## What is it?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that usually causes cold-like symptoms. While most RSV cases are mild, it can cause severe illness in infants and older adults, and hospitalization may be needed. Most children get RSV by age 2.



## How does RSV spread?

- By breathing in tiny droplets from the cough or sneeze of an infected person
- By touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, mouth, or nose

## Who is at risk for severe illness?

RSV can cause conditions, like bronchiolitis and pneumonia, which may require hospitalization. Those at highest risk are:

- Premature infants
- Children under age 2 with certain medical conditions
- People with compromised immune systems
- Adults 65 and older

## Symptoms

It can take 4-6 days for symptoms to develop after exposure:

- Runny nose
- Decreased appetite
- Cough
- Sneezing
- Wheezing
- Fever

In young infants:

- Irritability
- Reduced activity
- Trouble breathing



## When sick

- Rest
- Drink fluids
- Manage fever
- Stay home when sick
- See a healthcare provider for severe illness; treatment may be needed

## Ways to prevent RSV

- Talk with your healthcare provider about special medications or vaccinations if you or your child are at high risk for severe RSV
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands well and often
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Clean frequently touched surfaces



Learn more  
about RSV

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