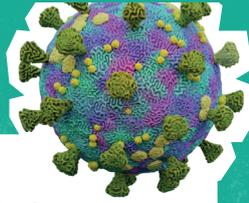


Are you RSV-prepared?

In fact, do you know what RSV is?

So, what is RSV?



RSV is short for Respiratory Syncytial Virus. It is a common and **highly contagious** virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms in babies. But it can also lead to more serious illnesses, resulting in the **hospitalisation of young children**.^{1,2}

It's a **seasonal virus**, which means it's more common during certain times of the year,³ typically just before and during the cold and flu seasons.⁴

Who's at risk?

RSV can affect people of all ages, but babies and older adults are more likely to become seriously ill.⁵

The reason babies are more at risk is their immune systems are still developing and their lungs are tiny. So a serious RSV infection can **block their airways and cause breathing difficulties**.^{1,2}

We can't predict which babies could get seriously ill and require medical attention, potentially in hospital, because **any baby is at risk**.⁶⁻¹³



RSV can spread easily^{5,14,15}

RSV is even more contagious than the flu.^{16,17} The virus spreads through **coughs and sneezes**, and can **survive on hard surfaces like toys and cribs**.^{1,14} A child infected with RSV might play with a toy, leaving the virus on it for another child to pick up.¹

Even a cuddle from a child's older brother or sister – who might have caught the virus at school – could easily pass it on.¹ Unsurprisingly, babies who go to childcare have a higher risk of catching RSV than those who don't.^{5,18}

9 out of every 10 babies will catch RSV by the time they're 2 years old¹⁹

1. Piedimonte G, Perez MK. Respiratory syncytial virus infection and bronchiolitis [published correction appears in *Pediatr Rev*. 2015 Feb;36(2):85. 2. Meissner HC. Viral Bronchiolitis in Children. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;374(1):62-72. 3. Obando-Pacheco P, Justicia-Grande AJ, Rivero-Calle I, et al. Respiratory Syncytial Virus Seasonality: A Global Overview. *J Infect Dis*. 2018;217(9):1356-1364. 4. Neumann G, Kawaoka Y. Seasonality of influenza and other respiratory viruses. *EMBO Mol Med*. 2022;14(4):e15352. 5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). RSV transmission. 2022. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/transmission.html>. Accessed: June 2023. 6. Banchini S, Silvestri E, Argentiero A, Fainardi V, Plisi G, Esposito S. Role of Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Pediatric Pneumonia. *Microorganisms*. 2020;8(12):2048. 7. Demont C, Petrica N, Bardoulat I, et al. Economic and disease burden of RSV-associated hospitalizations in young children in France, from 2010 through 2018 [published correction appears in *BMC Infect Dis*. 2023 Feb 27;23(1):122. 8. Sanchez-Luna M, Elola FJ, Fernandez-Perez C, Bernal JL, Lopez-Pineda A. Trends in respiratory syncytial virus bronchiolitis hospitalizations in children less than 1 year: 2004-2012. *Curr Med Res Opin*. 2016;32(4):693-698. 9. Kobayashi Y, Togo K, Agosti Y, McLaughlin JM. Epidemiology of respiratory syncytial virus in Japan: A nationwide claims database analysis. *Pediatr Int*. 2022;64(1):e14957. 10. Hartmann K, Liese JG, Kemmling D, et al. Clinical Burden of Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Hospitalized Children Aged <5 Years (INSPIRE Study). *J Infect Dis*. 2022;226(3):386-395. 11. Yu J, Liu C, Xiao Y, Xiang Z, Zhou H, Chen L, Shen K, Xie Z, Ren L, Wang J. Respiratory Syncytial Virus Seasonality, Beijing, China, 2007-2015. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2019 Jun;25(6):1127-1135. 12. Thwaites R, Buchan S, Fullerton J, et al. Clinical burden of severe respiratory syncytial virus infection during the first 2 years of life in children born between 2000 and 2011 in Scotland. *Eur J Pediatr*. 2020;179(5):791-799. 13. Arriola CS, Kim L, Langley G, et al. Estimated Burden of Community-Onset Respiratory Syncytial Virus-Associated Hospitalizations Among Children Aged <2 Years in the United States, 2014-15. *J Pediatric Infect Dis Soc*. 2020;9(5):587-595. 14. Eiland LS. Respiratory syncytial virus: diagnosis, treatment and prevention. *J Pediatr Pharmacol Ther*. 2009;14(2):75-85. 15. Chatterjee A, Mavunda K, Krilov LR. Current State of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Disease and Management. *Infect Dis Ther*. 2021;10(Suppl 1):5-16. 16. Liu L, Zeng F, Rao J, et al. Comparison of Clinical Features and Outcomes of Medically Attended COVID-19 and Influenza Patients in a Defined Population in the 2020 Respiratory Virus Season. *Front Public Health*. 2021;9:587425. 17. Reis J, Shaman J. Simulation of four respiratory viruses and inference of epidemiological parameters. *Infect Dis Model*. 2018;3:23-34. 18. Zylbersztein A, Pembrey L, Goldstein H, et al. Respiratory syncytial virus in young children: community cohort study integrating serological surveys, questionnaire and electronic health records, Born in Bradford cohort, England, 2008 to 2013. *Euro Surveill*. 2021;26(6):2000023. 19. Gezen WP, Taber LH, Frank AL, Kasel JA. Risk of primary infection and reinfection with respiratory syncytial virus. *Am J Dis Child*. 1986;140(6):543-546.

An RSV infection can impact the whole family:

- Having a child with a respiratory infection that could cause breathing difficulties can be **stressful and upsetting**¹⁻⁵
- RSV can **spread quickly** within a childcare environment. One study found that half of the children became infected within a week of the virus entering the setting⁶
- If a child becomes sick, their parents and caregivers may have to **miss work**^{1-3,7,8}
- Families could face **additional costs** for travel, home support and childcare for other children^{2,9}
- The **child's siblings might also get sick** and have to stay home from daycare or school⁸
- For their own safety, **grandparents may be unable to visit** (or provide childcare) if a child is unwell¹⁰



Tips to help protect babies and young children in your care:



Make sure everyone regularly washes their hands and avoids touching their face¹¹



Cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of an arm¹¹



Disinfect hard surfaces, toys and utensils frequently¹¹



Tell parents to keep children at home if they're unwell¹¹



Recommend moms and dads chat about RSV prevention with their doctors



1. Carbonell-Estrany X, Dall'Agnola A, Fullarton JR, et al. Interaction between healthcare professionals and parents is a key determinant of parental distress during childhood hospitalisation for respiratory syncytial virus infection (European RSV Outcomes Study [EROS]). *Acta Paediatr.* 2018;107(5):854-860. 2. Mitchell I, Defoy I, Grubb E. Burden of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Hospitalizations in Canada. *Can Respir J.* 2017;2017:4521302. 3. Pokrzywinski RM, Swett LL, Pannaraj PS, et al. Impact of Respiratory Syncytial Virus-Confirmed Hospitalizations on Caregivers of US Preterm Infants. *Clin Pediatr (Phila).* 2019;58(8):837-850. 4. Gates M, Shulhan-Kilroy J, Featherstone R, MacGregor T, Scott SD, Hartling L. Parent experiences and information needs related to bronchiolitis: A mixed studies systematic review. *Patient Educ Couns.* 2019;102(5):864-878. 5. Fusco F, Hocking L, Stockwell S, et al. The Burden of Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Understanding Impacts on the NHS, Society and Economy. *Rand Health Q.* 2022;10(1):2. 6. Yu X, Kou Y, Xia D, Li J, Yang X, Zhou Y, He X. Human respiratory syncytial virus in children with lower respiratory tract infections or influenza-like illness and its co-infection characteristics with viruses and atypical bacteria in Hangzhou, China. *J Clin Virol.* 2015 Aug;69:1-6. 7. Heikkinen T, Ojala E, Waris M. Clinical and Socioeconomic Burden of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection in Children. *J Infect Dis.* 2017;215(1):17-23. 8. Hodgson D, Atkins KE, Baguelin M, et al. Estimates for quality of life loss due to Respiratory Syncytial Virus. *Influenza Other Respir Viruses.* 2020;14(1):19-27. 9. Leader S, Yang H, DeVincenzo J, Jacobson P, Marcin JP, Murray DL. Time and out-of-pocket costs associated with respiratory syncytial virus hospitalization of infants. *Value Health.* 2003;6(2):100-106. 10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). RSV in Older Adults and Adults with Chronic Medical Conditions. 2022. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/high-risk/older-adults.html>. Accessed: June 2023. 11. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). RSV Prevention. 2022. Available at: www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html. Accessed: June 2023.