

About Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection

What is RSV?

- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms.
- Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for **infants and older adults**.
- RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs) in children younger than 1 year of age in the U.S.

Symptoms



Runny
Nose



Fever



Sneezing



Wheezing



Decrease in
appetite

In very young infants with RSV, the only symptoms may be irritability, decreased activity, and breathing difficulties.

Care

There is no specific treatment for RSV, but steps to relieve symptoms include:



- managing your fever and pain
- drinking enough fluids
- talking to your health care provider



Call your health care provider or seek care immediately if you or your child is

- having difficulty breathing
- not drinking enough fluids or
- experiencing worse symptoms

How to protect yourself and loved ones



**Stay protected against
other viruses**

- Get vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19
- Get your flu vaccine



Wear a mask



Stay home when you are sick



Avoid contact with sick people



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Keep your hands off your face



Wash your hands often