

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

- A common virus that affects babies and infants.
- Leading cause of two lung infections: pneumonia and bronchitis.



Symptoms of RSV

- Starts out like a cold with fever or runny nose.
- Can also include:
 - Coughing.
 - Problems breathing.
 - Fast breathing.
 - Not eating well.

How is RSV Spread?

- Contact with someone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Enters the body through the eyes, nose, or mouth.

How to Prevent the Spread of RSV?

- Wash your hands before and after handling a baby.
- Avoid exposing your baby to others with cold symptoms.
- Cover coughs/sneezes and throw away used tissues.
- Keep your baby away from crowded areas.
- If your baby is at high risk for RSV, talk to your doctor about a monthly shot that can help lower the risk of a baby getting severe RSV.
- Your baby may be eligible for palivizumab (brand name: Synagis®), a treatment given to prevent and reduce RSV.
- The shot, given monthly during RSV season, reduces the chance of your baby getting pneumonia and bronchitis.
- Babies may still get RSV but will be less sick.