

RSV Immunisation

Information for parents and carers

What is RSV?

RSV is a common virus that can infect people of all ages. RSV stands for Respiratory Syncytial Virus but most people just call it RSV.

Most people with RSV will recover within a week but some people, including babies and young children, can become very sick and will need to go to hospital.

Symptoms of RSV can include:



Runny nose



Cough



Wheezing (noisy breathing)



High temperature



Not hungry



Fussy baby or more sleepy than usual



Fast breathing or working hard to breathe ▶





How do you get RSV?

RSV is spread through an infected person's coughing or sneezing and can spread quickly between family members and in the community. Babies can catch it very easily.

Babies and young children can get really sick if they get RSV. They might need to go to hospital, and the effects from RSV can last a long time.



How do you keep your family safe from RSV?

The best way to prevent serious illness caused by RSV is to get your baby immunised.

It's important for our communities and families to protect our little ones against this virus.

Remember to practice good cough etiquette and wash hands regularly.



What is the RSV immunisation made from?

The RSV immunisation contains a medicine called Nirsevimab (Beyfortus®), which contains antibodies that can prevent severe RSV disease in babies and young children.

The medicine is given as a needle, usually into the baby's thigh. The antibodies help the body to fight off harmful germs and provide protection against RSV straight away. This will help to keep babies and children healthy and at home in community.



Who can get the RSV immunisation?

While RSV immunisation is not mandatory, it is highly recommended.

If you have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander baby who is under 8 months old, talk to your health worker or doctor about RSV immunisation today.

If you have a baby aged 8 months to under 20 months, who has a complex medical condition, speak to your health worker or doctor about RSV immunisation.



Are there any side effects?

Side effects are uncommon but can include a rash or redness, swelling, and pain where the injection is given, and fever. Almost all reactions are minor and usually go away within a few days.

The RSV immunisation medicine does not contain respiratory syncytial virus and it cannot make you sick. This is a prevention medicine.



What should I do if I think my baby is having a serious reaction to the medicine?

Signs of a severe allergic reaction usually happen within a few minutes to a few hours after the immunisation and can include:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face and throat
- Difficulty breathing
- A fast heartbeat
- Floppiness and difficult to wake

If this happens, call 000 or see your health care provider immediately.



For more information on RSV Immunisation talk to your health worker or doctor today.



Scan the QR code to learn more about RSV Immunisation

[Vaccination Matters](#)