

RSV: What Parents Should Know

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), pronounced “sin-si-tial,” is a common virus that can cause respiratory illness in infants.^{1,2,3}



How is RSV spread and who is at risk?

Almost all children will have had RSV by the time they turn two.⁴

RSV is spread by coughs, sneezes and close physical contact and is typically a seasonal virus, occurring mainly during the cold and flu season (October-March).^{2,5}

What impact does it have on infants?

Although most RSV infections in babies are mild, some cases can be more serious and hospital care may be needed.¹ In the UK, around 30,000 children under the age of five are hospitalised every year due to RSV.²

Bronchiolitis, pneumonia and croup are examples of severe illnesses that can be caused by RSV.¹

Symptoms of RSV-related illness include:



Call your GP or 111 if you have any questions or concerns.

Refer to the NHS guidance and contact your GP if you are worried about your baby's symptoms, or notice the following:⁷



Although not common, sometimes symptoms can become severe quickly and more urgent help is needed. The NHS recommends that you call 999 if you notice that:⁷



Precautions to protect against RSV are the same as other respiratory infections, including COVID-19:⁷



For more information about RSV and the *Together Against RSV* campaign, visit www.togetheragainstrsv.com

References

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