

What is RSV?

RSV is a common respiratory virus. By the time children are 2 or 3 years old, most have been infected by RSV at least once, with few problems. However, for some, the virus can be life-threatening – and the infection sends more babies to the hospital than any other condition.



Who are high-risk people for RSV?

For some, the virus can be life-threatening. High-risk groups include:

- Premature babies in first year of life
- Infants under 6 months
- Children with asthma
- Patients of any age with a weakened immune system or underlying lung or heart problems

Infants are most severely affected by RSV. Signs and symptoms of severe RSV infection in infants include:

- Short, shallow, and rapid breathing
- Struggling to breathe — chest muscles and skin pull inward with each breath
- Cough
- Poor feeding
- Unusual tiredness
- Irritability
- Fever – (temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit). Fever may not always be present

Adults/Older Children:

- Congested or runny nose
- Dry cough
- Low-grade fever
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Headache

RSV infection can spread to the lower respiratory tract, causing inflammation of the small airway passages entering the lungs. These signs include

- Fever
- Severe cough
- Wheezing
- Rapid breathing or difficulty breathing
- Bluish color of the skin due to lack of oxygen (cyanosis)

