

# RSV

## The Surge Continues, Putting Infants at Risk

Cases of RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, are surging in the United States at rates far higher and earlier than expected. RSV-associated hospitalizations have more than doubled compared to last season<sup>1</sup>. Infants 0-6 months of age are at the highest risk of severe complications<sup>1</sup>. Because there is no vaccine, it is important to prevent the spread of RSV. Learn to recognize the symptoms of RSV and take steps to reduce transmission of this contagious respiratory illness.



### SYMPTOMS

1-2  
WEEKS

Symptoms of RSV usually last for 1-2 weeks and develop in stages within 4-6 days of contracting the infection and can include<sup>2</sup>.

- Fever
- Sneezing, runny nose
- Decreased appetite
- Coughing
- Wheezing or breathing difficulties

### SYMPTOMS IN YOUNG INFANTS

- Irritability
- Decreased activity or appetite
- Breathing difficulties

2.1  
MILLION

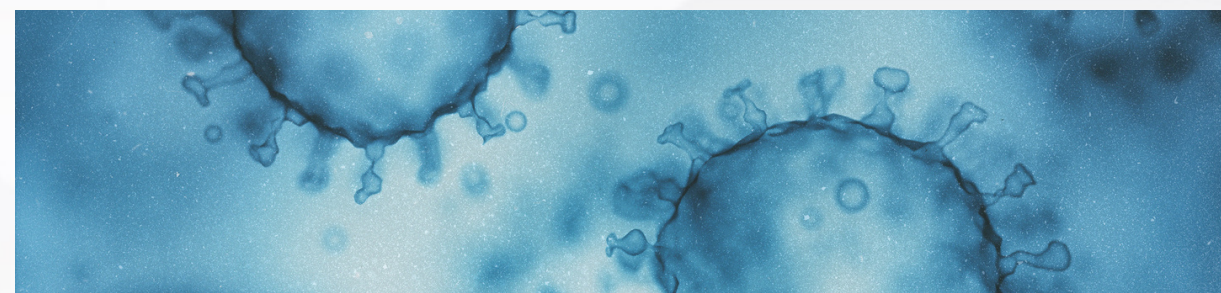
Each year in the US, RSV leads to approximately 2.1 million outpatient visits among children younger than 5 years old<sup>2</sup>.

### COMPLICATIONS



Complications like inflammation of the small airways in the lungs (bronchiolitis) and infection of the lungs (pneumonia) may occur if RSV spreads to the lower respiratory tract. Severe symptoms may develop, including:

- Barking or wheezing cough
- Short, shallow, or rapid breathing
- Bluish color of the skin, lips, or fingernails (due to lack of oxygen)



Complications and severe symptoms can require hospitalization, which usually lasts for a few days. Depending on the severity of symptoms, treatment may include IV fluids, breathing treatments, oxygen, or mechanical ventilation<sup>3</sup>.

### TRANSMISSION & PREVENTION



RSV can spread through respiratory droplets, close contact with an infected person, or contact with infected surfaces. Since there is currently no specific treatment or cure for RSV, prevention is your best line of defense

In order to prevent infection, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following:



- Avoid close contact with infected people
- Avoid sharing objects (including toys, cups, utensils, and bottles)
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or upper sleeve
- Avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands
- Stay home if sick

For any questions or concerns about RSV, please contact your physician.