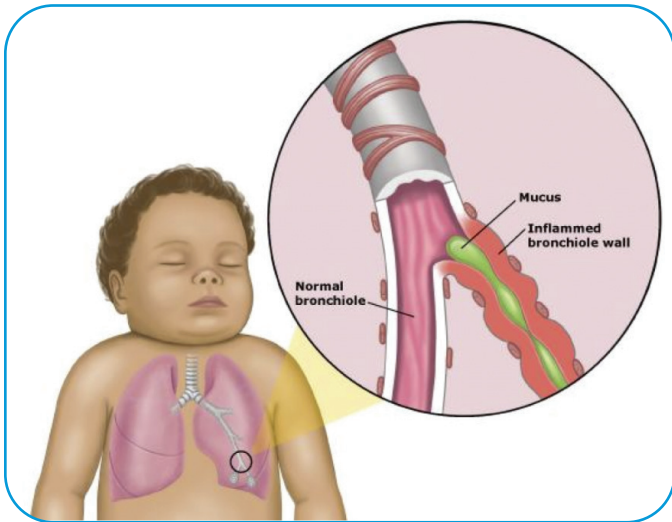


RSV Information for Parents and Caregivers: Protecting Your Infant

What is RSV?



RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is a common virus that infects the lungs and airways. It can cause inflammation and make an infant produce a lot of mucus. Together, that can make it hard for an infant to breathe. Nearly 100% of children will get RSV by the time they turn 2 years old.

What is so important about RSV?

Most children will have only mild symptoms. However, some infants, even healthy ones, can have very severe symptoms. **RSV is the #1 reason why children under 1 year old need to stay in the hospital.** Each year, close to 200 children die from complications of RSV.

Who is at risk of severe RSV?

All infants are at risk of severe RSV disease. Infants born prematurely (earlier than 37 weeks) or who were in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) after birth are at a higher risk of severe RSV disease.

When is the RSV season?

RSV usually happens during the fall and winter months, from October through March.

What are common symptoms of RSV?

Most infants will have symptoms like a cold. Symptoms may include a stuffy nose, runny nose, cough, and fever. These usually go away in 4 or 5 days.

What are serious symptoms of RSV?

- difficulty breathing, gasping, working hard to breathe, fast breathing, or stopping breathing
- wheezing
- bluish color around the lips, mouth, or fingernails
- not eating as much
- fewer wet diapers
- no tears when crying
- less activity and alertness

What can I do at home?

Most infants with mild RSV symptoms can be managed safely at home. Make sure to:

- give your infant plenty of fluids
- use saline drops to loosen any mucus from your infant's nose
- use acetaminophen (Tylenol) for high fevers and fussiness

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Where can I get help for my infant?

- WellSpan offers several options. You can find these on wellspan.org under “Get Care Now.”

BE SEEN TODAY

Get Care Now

We have convenient options to get the right care for you when you need it. [View all care options.](#)

Virtual On-Demand Care	Walk In Urgent Care	Emergency Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none">24/7 online access to a doctor through MyWellSpan on your phone, computer or tablet.Wait is as little as 10 minutes.For minor illnesses and injuries.Insurance not required. Cost varies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No appointment needed. You may reserve a spot online at some locations or walk in.Wait is usually 20-60 minutes.For minor illnesses, injuries and some preventative care.Insurance not required. Cost varies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Available 24/7.No appointment needed.For life-threatening emergencies or critical conditions.Insurance not required. Cost varies.

- You can also scan the QR code with a smart device to use WellSpan's Symptom Checker to find the best option.



How can I protect my infant from severe RSV?

WellSpan now offers a new medicine that provides immunity against RSV. It is called nirsevimab (Beyfortus™) and is made by Sanofi Pasteur.

Is this a vaccine?

No! This medicine is a monoclonal antibody. It gives your infant's immune system the antibodies it needs to fight RSV (passive immunity protection) for about 5 months, which is the length of the typical RSV season.

What is a monoclonal antibody and how is it different from a vaccine?

A vaccine teaches the body to make antibodies to fight a particular disease. A monoclonal antibody helps protect someone right away by giving them the antibodies they will need. It doesn't have to wait for the body to make its own.

Is this medicine approved?

Yes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved this medicine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all infants less than 8 months old get it in their first RSV season.

How is this medicine given to my child?

It is given as an injection (shot) in your infant's thigh muscle.

Who should get this medicine?

ALL infants less than 8 months old should get this medicine during their first RSV season.

My child is older than 8 months, can they still get this RSV medicine?

No. Most infants will not need nirsevimab after they are 8 months old. A small number of infants, such as those who were born very prematurely and have chronic lung disease, will need a second dose of the medicine when they are older than 8 months.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?

The most common side effects are pain and mild swelling at the injection site or a mild rash.

Can my infant get their flu shot at the same time?

Yes! If your infant is at least 6 months old and is due for their flu shot, they can get that at the same time. RSV and flu are different viruses, and it is important to protect your infant against both.

My infant already had RSV this season, should they still get this medicine?

Yes! Having RSV already in the season does not protect your infant from getting RSV again in the same season.

How much does the nirsevimab immunization cost?

All WellSpan birthing hospitals participate in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Vaccines for Children program. For children who qualify for this program, there is no cost for nirsevimab. To qualify, your infant must meet one of the following: a) be American Indian or Alaska Native; b) be Medicaid-eligible; c) be uninsured.

For infants with commercial/private insurance plans, out-of-pocket cost may vary depending on your particular benefit plan, deductible, co-pay, or co-insurance. If you have questions or need assistance to make a payment or review financial options, please contact WellSpan Health Customer Service at 717-851-5005.

Where can I find out more information?

For information about RSV and nirsevimab, check out the American Academy of Pediatrics website for parents and caregivers at HealthyChildren.org