



# RSV protection for babies



## What is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)?

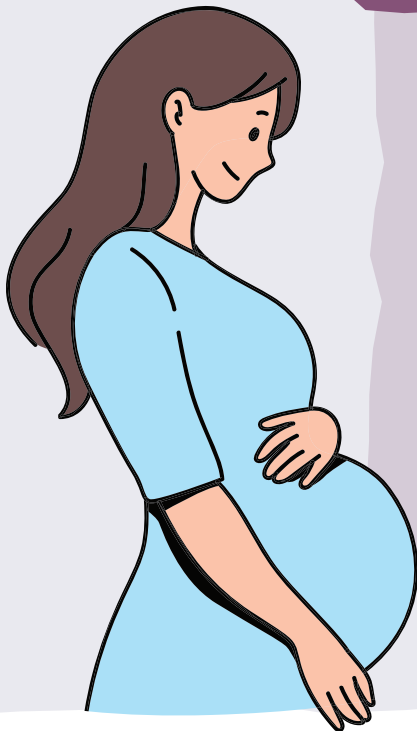
RSV is a highly contagious respiratory virus that infects the upper airways and lungs. RSV infection can cause a runny nose, cough, wheeze, difficulty breathing and fever. It mostly affects infants and young children but can occur in adults.

RSV can cause severe respiratory illnesses including:

- bronchiolitis (infection of the small airways in the lungs)
- pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
- croup (infection of the voice box and wind pipe)

RSV is spread through droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze and can spread easily from person to person.

## RSV vaccination during pregnancy (preferred)



Vaccination during pregnancy is an effective way to protect your baby from birth to up to 6 months old. Women between 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy are recommended to receive a free RSV vaccine through the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

Talk to your GP, obstetrician or midwife about the RSV vaccine.



## RSV medication after pregnancy

Babies at birth or children up to 2 years may be recommended to receive RSV medication if:

- Their mother did not receive the RSV vaccine in pregnancy, or
- They were born within 2 weeks after their mother received the RSV vaccine, or
- They or their mothers have a medical condition that increases their risk of severe RSV disease.

The medication fights off germs and prevents RSV infection in babies.



## RSV vaccine and RSV medication safety

The RSV vaccine and medication are both safe and effective, and have both been strictly tested and approved for use in Australia.



Side effects are usually short lasting and include redness, pain and swelling at the injection site, tiredness and headaches. Serious side effects are rare.

RSV vaccination and medication will be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register.

