



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.

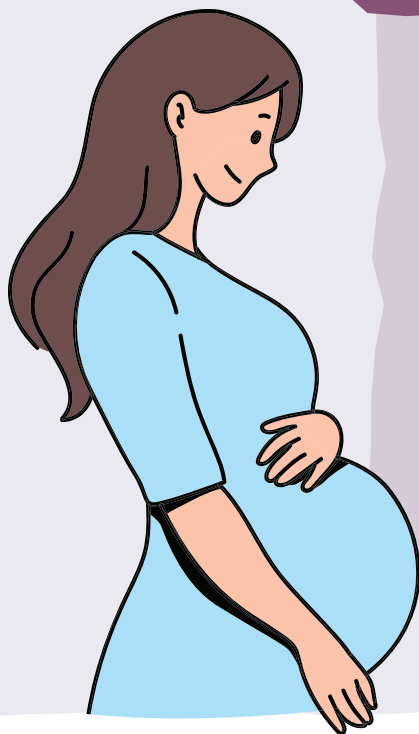
RSV can cause severe respiratory illnesses including:

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

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 from 28 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.



If you need an interpreter we can book one for you.



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.

Beyfortus (Nirsevimab) is a medication that contains antibodies which prevents severe RSV disease in babies and young children. A single injection of the antibodies provides protection straight away. In the NT, Beyfortus (Nirsevimab) is available only in hospitals at birth and up to 2 years of age for those children most at risk. Beyfortus (Nirsevimab) can be given at the same time with other birth injections such as Vitamin K and Hepatitis B vaccine.



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.



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