

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunization FAQ: Infants and Young Children



1. What is an RSV immunization?

RSV immunizations are long-acting monoclonal antibodies that help protect babies from getting very sick from RSV. Monoclonal antibodies are not vaccines; they are treatments that target specific proteins and help your immune system fight disease.

2. Should my baby get an RSV immunization?

Either maternal RSV vaccination (Abrysvo) or infant immunization with a long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody (nirsevimab or clesrovimab) is recommended to prevent severe RSV disease in infants. Most infants will not need both maternal vaccination and infant RSV antibodies. Talk with your baby's doctor about what is right for your child.

3. When should my baby get an RSV immunization?

RSV immunizations are usually given to infants:

- Before RSV season starts, or
- Within 1 week after birth if a baby is born during RSV season (October-March)

Some babies at higher risk may need another dose during their second RSV season.

4. Do RSV immunizations work?

Yes. RSV antibodies help protect babies from severe RSV illness. It can lower the chance that a baby will need medical care or be hospitalized because of RSV.

5. Do RSV immunizations have side effects?

Most babies do not have serious side effects.

Some babies may have:

- Pain, redness, or swelling where the shot was given
- Mild rash
- Fussiness

Talk with your child's doctor if you have questions or concerns.



← Scan here to access additional helpful vaccine and immunization resources at www.spreadthefacts.org

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6. Does my baby need an RSV immunization every year?

No. Most babies only need an RSV antibody once, during their first RSV season. Some babies at higher risk may need another dose during their second RSV season.

7. Can my baby get RSV immunization with other vaccines?

Yes. An RSV immunization can be given at the same visit as other routine childhood vaccines.

8. Is there treatment available if my child gets RSV?

Yes. Most children with RSV get better with rest, fluids, and care at home. Some babies and young children may need medical care or hospital treatment if they have trouble breathing or drinking fluids.

Call your child's doctor right away if your child:

- Has trouble breathing
- Is breathing very fast
- Is not drinking enough fluids
- Seems very sleepy or hard to wake up



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