

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine FAQs: Pregnancy



1. Why is the RSV vaccine recommended during pregnancy?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) usually causes mild cold-like symptoms, but it can be serious for babies and young children. RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization in infants in the U.S. In 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first RSV vaccine, Abrysvo, for use in pregnant patients to protect newborns and infants against severe RSV disease in the first 6 months after birth.

2. When should I get an RSV vaccine during pregnancy?

The RSV vaccine is recommended when you are 32 to 36 weeks pregnant during RSV season, which is usually in the fall and winter.

3. When should my baby get an RSV preventive antibody?

If you did not receive the RSV vaccine during pregnancy, your baby should get an RSV preventive antibody immunization soon after birth.

This is usually given:

- Before RSV season starts, or
- Within one week after birth if your 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 vaccines work?

Yes. Getting the RSV vaccine during pregnancy helps protect babies from severe RSV illness after they are born. The vaccine helps lower the chance that a baby will need medical care or hospitalization because of RSV.

5. Do RSV vaccines have side effects?

Some people may have mild side effects after getting the RSV vaccine, including:

- A sore arm
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Feeling tired
- Nausea

These side effects are usually mild and go away in a few days.



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6. If I get the RSV vaccine, does my baby still need an RSV preventive antibody?

Most babies do not need both. If you get the RSV vaccine at least two weeks before your baby is born, your baby is usually protected. Talk with your baby's doctor if you have questions.

7. Should I get the RSV vaccine with every pregnancy?

No. The RSV vaccine is recommended only once. If you become pregnant again, your baby should receive an RSV preventive antibody immunization after birth instead. Talk with your doctor about the latest recommendations.

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

Yes. Most babies with RSV get better with rest, fluids, and care at home. Some babies, especially very young babies, may need medical care or hospital treatment if they have trouble breathing or feeding. Call your baby's doctor right away if your baby is having trouble breathing, is not drinking enough fluids, or seems very sleepy.



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