

# RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

## WHAT IS RSV?

RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms, but can also cause severe disease, especially in infants and older adults.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

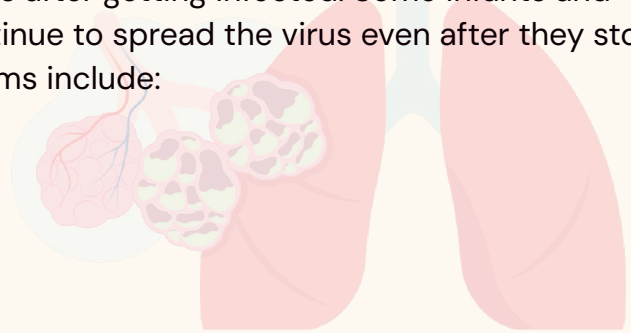
People infected with RSV usually become contagious 1 to 2 days before they start showing symptoms and show symptoms within 4 to 6 days after getting infected. Some infants and people with weakened immune systems can continue to spread the virus even after they stop showing symptoms (as long as 4 weeks). Symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing

## HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

RSV can spread through close contact with someone who is sick by:

- Sneezes or coughs
- Touching infected surfaces and then touching your face without first washing your hands



## HOW CAN I PREVENT RSV?



Adults 50 years and older can receive an RSV **vaccine**.



Pregnant people can get an RSV **vaccine** which will give protection to the baby once born.



**Monoclonal antibodies** can be given to infants <8 months and high-risk infants 8 – 19 months of age.

## OTHER PREVENTION TIPS:



Stay home if you are feeling sick.



Wear a mask if you are feeling sick.



Cover your coughs and sneezes.



Wash your hands regularly.