

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

What do I need to know?

Since the start of the pandemic, the infection control and hygiene measures that have helped us to fight COVID-19 have also reduced the circulation of other respiratory infections, such as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Many babies and young children will not yet have been exposed to these common viruses. As restrictions are eased, cases of these viruses are rising, so parents are advised to look out for signs of severe respiratory infection in their children.

What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is one of the common viruses that cause coughs and colds in winter. Most cases are not serious and clear up in 2-3 weeks, but it can be severe in some infants. RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis in children aged under 2 years. Bronchiolitis is an infection which causes the smallest airways in the lungs (the bronchioles) to become infected and inflamed.

Who is at risk?

- Babies and young children under 2 years old
- preschool children
- older people

RSV can be more severe in:

- premature babies
- newborn babies, especially in the first 2 months
- vulnerable infants with certain underlying conditions



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV): what do I need to know?

Please note this is an updated version of the leaflet originally published on 9 September.

This leaflet tells parents about Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). It outlines the symptoms, how to manage them, and when to seek medical help.

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Details

Format

4 pages, A5, PDF only

Target group

Parents of young children

Downloads

Attachment	Size
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