



Protecting Your Baby From RSV: Shared Decision Making Tool

RSV 101

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that infects almost all children by the time they are two years old. **RSV can cause severe disease**, turning into serious lung infections, such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia.

Infants **under 6 months of age are at the greatest risk** of becoming seriously ill. Most infants who are hospitalized with RSV were born healthy and full-term, which is why RSV prevention is important for all families.



In Canada, RSV season typically occurs between October and April, although timing can vary slightly from year to year. RSV is one of the **leading reasons infants are admitted to hospital** during this time.

Infants who experience severe RSV in their first couple years of life have a **higher risk of ongoing respiratory problems**, such as asthma and pneumonia infections, as they grow.

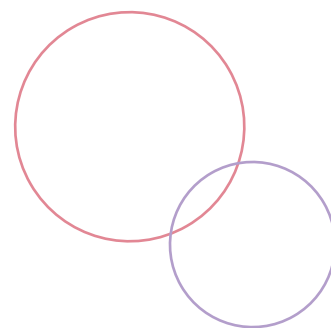
RSV infection in infants can also **affect parents and families** through missed work, elevated stress, anxiety, and trauma.

Symptoms of RSV

RSV symptoms often begin like a common cold but **can become more serious** in infants.

Symptoms may include:

- Cough
- Congestion
- Fever
- Wheezing
- Poor appetite
- Difficulty breast or bottle feeding
- Difficulty breathing
- Irritability
- Lower energy than usual





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RSV prevention

There is no cure for RSV but families have access to **safe and effective methods to protect infants** from severe illness. There are two RSV protection strategies:

During pregnancy

A vaccine administered during pregnancy, between 28 weeks and 36+6 weeks, which generates antibodies that transfer to your baby. This provides immediate protection at birth.

- ABRYSCO® (RSVpreF)*

Or after birth

Your baby might be eligible for immunization using monoclonal antibodies. This is typically given following birth or just prior to the start of the respiratory virus season.

- ENFLONIA® (Clesrovimab)*
- Beyfortus® (Nirsevimab)*



Both strategies are effective against severe disease, hospitalization, and ICU admission.

Talk to your healthcare provider to help **determine the most suitable path for your family.**

*Eligibility varies by province/territory, visit [here](#) for more information.

Questions to ask your healthcare provider

If you're pregnant or planning a pregnancy, here are some questions to consider asking your healthcare provider at your next appointment:

- Is my baby likely to be born during RSV season?
- What are the risk factors for severe RSV illness?
- What options are available to help protect my baby against RSV?
- Which RSV protection option is recommended for me and my baby?
- Can RSV vaccination be given with other recommended vaccines during pregnancy?
- If I didn't get the vaccination during pregnancy, when does my baby receive immunization?

Talk to your healthcare provider to make an **informed, shared decision** as to what protective measures are best for you and your baby.