Clinical Laboratory Testing

Clinical symptoms of RSV are nonspecific and can overlap with other viral respiratory infections, as well as some bacterial infections. Several types of laboratory tests are available for confirming RSV infection.



How to Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones from Respiratory Diseases this Winter

- Wash your hands often
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean frequently touched surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick

References:

- CDC.gov/RSV/Index.html

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Vaccines to Consider

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Comagine Health



RSV Infection and Vaccine

Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be dangerous for babies, toddlers and older adults. RSV season in most regions of the U.S. starts in the fall and peaks in winter. FDA-approved vaccines are available to protect older adults from severe RSV. Preventive options are available to protect infants and young children from severe RSV.

RSV Symptoms

People infected with RSV usually show symptoms within 4 to 6 days after getting infected. Symptoms of RSV infection typically include:

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

These symptoms usually appear in stages and not all at once. In very young infants with RSV, the only symptoms may be irritability, decreased activity, and breathing difficulties.

Care for Yourself, Family and Friends

Antiviral medication is not routinely recommended to fight infection. Most RSV infections go away on their own in a week or two. However, RSV can cause severe illness in some people.

Take steps to relieve symptoms:

- Manage fever and pain with over-the-counter reducers and pain relievers, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen (Never give aspirin to children)
- Drink enough fluids. People with RSV infection must drink enough fluids to prevent dehydration (loss of body fluids)
- Talk to your healthcare provider before giving your child nonprescription cold medicines. Some medicines contain ingredients that are not good for children
- **Call your healthcare professional if you or your child is having difficulty breathing, not drinking enough fluids, or experiencing worsening symptoms**

RSV Vaccine Cost

Adults:

- Medicare Part D covers RSV vaccine at no cost
- Private health plans are required to cover RSV vaccines for adults 60 years and older
- Check with your insurance for more information

Children:

Children can access all recommended vaccines, including flu, COVID-19, and RSV (based on their age), for free through their family's insurance or through the Vaccines for Children Program.

CDC.gov/Vaccines-For-Children/VFC-Information-For-Parents/

New Immunization to Protect Against Severe RSV

CDC has recommended multiple new immunization to protect those most at risk of getting very sick with RSV: infants, toddlers, all adults ages 75 and older, and adults ages 60-74 who are at an increased risk of severe RSV. Three RSV vaccines are licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in adults 60 years and older. If you have already gotten an RSV vaccine, you do not need to get another one at this time. You can get one at any time, but the best time to get vaccinated is in late summer and early fall.

Who Does it Protect	Type of Product
Adults 60 and over	RSV vaccine
Babies	RSV antibody given to baby OR RSV vaccine given during pregnancy

Immunization to Protect Infants
Talk to your doctor first
• CDC recommends all babies be protected from severe RSV by one of two immunization options: A maternal RSV vaccine given to the mother during pregnancy or an RSV antibody given to your baby. Most babies do not need both. • The maternal RSV vaccine (Pfizer's Abrysvo) is given during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy. Maternal antibodies protect the baby against RSV for approximately 6 months after birth. • An RSV antibody (nirsevimab) can be given to babies and some young children. This antibody provides immediate protection against RSV and lasts at least 5 months.