

RSV:

IS MY BABY AT RISK?

WHAT IS RSV?

Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus (RSV) is a common, easily spread virus that almost all children catch at least once by the time they turn two. It usually causes moderate to severe cold-like symptoms. In some cases, complications from RSV disease can lead to serious lung infection, hospitalization, breathing problems and, in severe cases, death. RSV has also been linked to asthma-like wheezing episodes during childhood.

IS MY BABY AT RISK FOR COMPLICATIONS OF RSV?

RSV disease is the #1 cause of hospitalizations in the U.S. for babies under one year of age. RSV season usually starts in the fall and runs into the spring, but can be different in certain parts of the country. Ask your baby's doctor when RSV season occurs in your area.



Babies who are in any of the following three population categories are at high risk for developing severe RSV disease:

Being born early — at less than 37 weeks.

For premature babies, RSV disease can lead to a serious respiratory tract infection that requires hospitalization.

Having chronic lung problems. Babies under the age of 2 years who have been treated for chronic lung disease within 6 months of the start of RSV season are at high risk.

Being born with certain types of heart disease. Babies 2 years of age or younger who have been born with certain types of heart disease are also at high risk.

Premature infants who have the following risk factors may be at high risk for developing severe RSV disease:

Having a low birth weight. Babies born at less than 5½ pounds are at high risk.

Having school-aged siblings. RSV is easy to catch, especially if there are other school-aged children in the home, particularly during cold and flu season.

Attending daycare centers. RSV can be passed from person to person by touching common items, such as toys, bedding, towels, etc.

Having a family history of asthma or wheezing. There is a high risk for severe RSV disease among babies who have a family history of asthma or wheezing.

Being around tobacco smoke or other air pollutants. This can irritate the baby's lungs and make it harder to fight RSV disease. Never allow anyone to smoke around your baby.

Multiple births. Multiples are at a high risk due to their potential low birth weight and also because there are more children in the household.

Young chronological age. Premature babies who are 12 weeks of age or younger at the start of RSV season are at high risk.

Crowded living conditions. Households with many people in a small space increase the risk for RSV disease.



Helping Parents



Navigate The Premature Journey

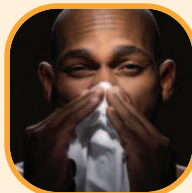
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HOW CAN I HELP TO PROTECT MY BABY?

Since RSV spreads just like a common cold virus, you may want to take a few extra precautions around your family and friends. Here are some ways to help prevent your baby from being exposed during RSV season.



- Wash your hands thoroughly before touchin



This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended to substitute for professional medical advice. Always consult with a healthcare professional if you have any questions about the health of your child.

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