What do you need to know about RSV?



RSV, or respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, is a common virus, easily spread by sneezing, coughing, or touching. For babies with certain health conditions, RSV can cause severe disease, including pneumonia or bronchiolitis.

RSV may have symptoms like the common cold or flu, but it can have serious consequences. Children under 1 year of age are hospitalized from RSV **16x** more often than from the flu.

Are some babies at greater risk for severe RSV disease?

BABIES BORN PREMATURELY ARE AT GREATER RISK

Preemies are born with lungs that are smaller and could not fully develop compared to full-term babies. This makes it harder for preemie lungs to fight infection.

WHY ARE THE LUNGS OF A PREEMIE SO FRAGILE?



PREEMIES Premature babies (born at 35 weeks or less) who are 6 months of age or younger at the start of RSV season. Preemie lungs can hold **ABOUT ~50%** as much air as a full-term baby



Babies born at 24-35 weeks gestational age



Babies born at 36 weeks gestational age to 3 years of age

BABIES WITH CERTAIN HEART AND LUNG ISSUES ARE AT GREATER RISK



HEMODYNAMICALLY SIGNIFICANT CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE (OR HS-CHD) Babies with HS-CHD who are 24 months of age or younger at the beginning of RSV season.



BRONCHOPULMONARY DYSPLASIA/CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE OF PREMATURITY (OR BPD/CLDP)

Babies with BPD/CLDP who are 24 months of age or younger at the beginning of RSV season.

Ask the doctor if your baby is at high risk for severe RSV disease.



Are there steps you can take to help protect your baby from RSV?



WASH YOUR HANDS before touching your baby and ask others to do the same



DON'T TOUCH YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH with unwashed hands



WASH YOUR BABY'S TOYS, clothes, and bedding often



COVER YOUR COUGHS AND SNEEZES with a tissue or your upper shirt sleeve



KEEP YOUR BABY AWAY FROM CROWDS, young children, and avoid close contact with sick people

WHAT MAY PUT YOUR BABY AT INCREASED RISK?



HAVING PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL AGED SIBLINGS



ATTENDING DAYCARE CENTERS



CROWDED ENVIRONMENTS OR SPACES



EXPOSURE TO SMOKING OR OTHER POLLUTANTS

What are the signs and symptoms of severe RSV disease?

IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE RSV DISEASE WARNING SIGNS, CALL THE DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY:

COUGHING OR WHEEZING that does not stop LABORED OR HEIGHTENED BREATHING FLARED NOSTRILS AND/OR INCREASED CHEST RETRACTIONS when trying to breathe A BLUISH COLOR around the mouth or fingernails

A FEVER, especially if it is greater than 100.4°F (rectal) in infants under 3 months of age

Your baby's best defense against RSV is YOU. Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about RSV or your baby's health.

For more information about RSV and for other resources, visit RSVProtection.com

