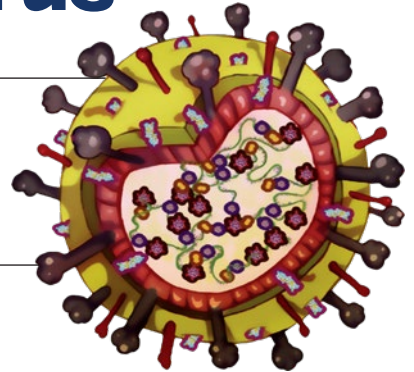


Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV, is a virus commonly seen in the winter and early spring. However, the medical community is currently seeing a large number of cases this summer.



Symptoms of RSV

RSV is common in children under age 4, but anyone can get it. In most people, RSV causes the same signs and symptoms as a common cold. Infants, children with lung disease and the very old can, however, develop severe symptoms requiring hospitalization.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irritability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coughing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fever |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poor feeding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheezing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skin that turns bluish when coughing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Runny nose | |

How does RSV spread?

RSV is spread by respiratory droplets. These are tiny drops of liquid that come out of our mouths and nose when we talk, cough or sneeze. These droplets can be inhaled, rubbed from hands onto the eyes, nose or mouth, or picked up from objects.

What can I do?

The spread of RSV can be reduced by:

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| ■ Frequent hand-washing or use of hand sanitizer | ■ Cleaning surfaces more frequently and sanitizing when necessary |
| ■ Not touching the face | ■ Giving up smoking |
| ■ Wearing a mask over the nose and mouth | ■ Keeping a sick child home |
| ■ Covering sneezes and coughs | |

Because RSV is so common and can be shed for several weeks, in mild cases (often not diagnosed) it is not necessary to exclude from child care. If a case is diagnosed, inform families so that they are aware and can contact their medical provider for advice.

For more information, contact the
Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning
317-503-6519 | OECOSLproviderinquiry@fssa.in.gov