



# Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Respiratory Syncytial Virus is one of the most common respiratory viruses that **infects most children by the age of 5 years old.**

RSV is the number one cause of children having to stay in the hospital for care.

RSV can also affect older and senior age adults.



## Symptoms

### Symptoms of RSV include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Runny Nose
- Shortness of Breath
- Congestion (feeling of blocked nasal passages)



**In some people, RSV causes pneumonia and bronchiolitis.** A hospital stay is often needed if a patient has difficulty breathing and wheezing.

## Treatment

If symptoms are mild or like a cold, most of the time only pain medication is prescribed.

Cold symptoms get better in about 1 week.

If a patient must be admitted to the hospital, IV fluids or oxygen are often given.

### To Prevent RSV:

- Wash hands often and very well
- Stay home when sick
- Clean surfaces you often touch (such as counters and door knobs)
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze



## Resources and More Information

For more information go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/index.html>