

# Immunization for babies against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections

Immunization,  
the best protection

## What is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)?

RSV is a virus that causes respiratory tract and lung infections. It is very common. It usually circulates in the fall and winter (RSV season).

## Did you know that...

- ... most children will be infected with RSV before the age of 2?
- ... RSV is the leading cause of respiratory infections in young children, especially in their first months of life?
- ... respiratory infections caused by RSV frequently cause bronchiolitis and pneumonia? These cases must be treated in a hospital?
- ... RSV is the most common cause of hospitalization in children under one year of age?

## How is RSV transmitted?



RSV is transmitted from one person to another by droplets from the nose or throat of an infected person.



It is very contagious.



## How can transmission be prevented?



Wash your hands often.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow.



Stay home if you have symptoms.

## What are the possible symptoms and complications of RSV infection?

RSV infection can cause wheezing and cold- or flu-like symptoms, such as:



Cough



Fever



Runny nose



Difficulty breathing

It can also cause serious complications, such as pneumonia or bronchiolitis, and require hospitalization.

## How can you protect your baby?

A single dose of preventive treatment is recommended to protect your baby from severe forms and complications of RSV infection.

This treatment consists of giving antibodies to your baby to protect them during their first months of life.

## Who should get preventive treatment?

- Babies born during the RSV season.
- Babies under 6 months of age at the start of RSV season who have not yet received treatment.
- Babies who have a condition that increases their risk of severe RSV infection.



## When and where can your baby get this preventive treatment?

The RSV preventive treatment is offered during the RSV season which is usually in the fall and winter.

It is offered to all newborns before they leave the hospital or birth centre.

If your baby did not get it at birth, they may get it, under certain conditions, at a local point of service or a local community services centre (CLSC).

## Is preventive treatment safe?

The preventive treatment is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Check with your CLSC, local point of service, a health professional or your midwife during your next visit.

To make an appointment or for more information, consult: **Québec.ca/RSV**