

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

September 2024

Vaccination is the best protection against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections and their complications. RSV is very common and contagious. It causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
RSV infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cold or flu-like symptoms (e.g. stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, cough, fatigue, fever)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Serious infection of the lungs or respiratory tract

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against RSV infections and their complications. The RSV vaccine can be administered to adults aged 60 years and over and to pregnant people, preferably between the 32th and the 36th weeks of pregnancy.

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g., redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g., cold, gastro, headache).

The RSV vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
Very common (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pain at the injection siteFatigueMuscle and joint painHeadache	
Common (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Runny noseRedness and swelling at the injection siteFever, chills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.Take fever/pain reducing medicine as needed.See a health professional if symptoms are severe.
Occasional (less than 1% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Itching at the injection siteGeneralized pain, discomfortHypersensitivity reactions, such as a rashNausea, abdominal painSwollen lymph nodes	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reaction may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reactions immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 811 or a health professional.