

Have you heard of RSV?

Here you can find out more about the **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**, spot the signs of illness in your baby and how to help protect them.

RSV is a common contagious virus which can make babies ill. More than 90% of babies will have been infected with RSV by the age of 2.¹

This virus is the most common cause of **bronchiolitis**, a viral infection affecting the bronchi and bronchioles, and **pneumonia**. Both of these diseases can evolve into severe forms requiring care in hospital.²⁻⁴

Read on or contact your paediatrician to find out more about RSV and how to protect your baby...



Share this with your family and friends.

Visit the website www.togetheragainstrsv.it



Spot the signs of illness in your baby

Symptoms of RSV infection are similar to those of other respiratory infections.

Some of the symptoms of illness could be:^{2,5}



Cold-like symptoms
such as a blocked nose, a cough, or a fever



Loss of appetite
in older children, or decreased feeding in babies



Wheezing



Decreased activity

Talk to your paediatrician for more information.

In some children, the infection may progress into bronchiolitis and require care in hospital.

The most common symptoms are:⁶



Apnoea
(short periods without breathing)



Rapid breathing



Cyanosis
(the skin turns blue around the lips)



Chest wall retractions



Rejection of food



Help protect your baby

Severe RSV-related illness can affect family life and may leave parents feeling worried and stressed.⁷ But there are steps you can take to help protect your baby and family.

Be aware that:



RSV has a **seasonal spread** from October/November to March/April in temperate regions such as Italy⁸



RSV can survive on hard surfaces and toys.
The virus can spread if an infant touches contaminated objects and then touches their face²



It is easily transmitted through coughs, sneezes and close physical contact, like cuddles and kisses²



RSV is mostly **spread to infants by older siblings** or other children^{9,10}

You can prevent the spread of RSV by:¹¹



Frequently **washing your hands** for at least 20 seconds



Keeping your baby **away from people who have symptoms** of possible respiratory infections



Disinfecting things like hard surfaces, toys and utensils



Coughing and sneezing into a tissue or your elbow

Bibliography: **1.** Simoes EA. Lancet. 1999; 354 (9181): 847-52; **2.** Piedimonte G et al. Pediatr Rev. 2014; 35 (12): 519-30; **3.** Istituto Superiore di Sanità. Bronchiolite. Available at: <https://www.issalute.it/index.php/la-salute-dalla-a-alla-z-menu/b/bronchiolite> (last access: July 2022); **4.** Istituto Superiore di Sanità. Polmonite. Available at: <https://www.issalute.it/index.php/la-salute-dalla-a-alla-z-menu/p/polmonite> (last access: July 2022); **5.** Groves HT et al. mBio. 2020; 11 (1): e03236-19; **6.** Ospedale pediatrico Bambino Gesù. Virus Respiratorio Sinciziale (RSV). Available at: <https://www.ospedalebambinogesu.it/virus-respiratorio-sinciziale-vrs-134145/> (last access: July 2022); **7.** Young M & Smitherman L. Infect Dis Ther 2021; 10: 35-45; **8.** Azzari C et al. Ital J Pediatr. 2021; 47 (1): 198; **9.** Jacoby P et al. Epidemiol Infect 2017; 145 (2): 266-71; **10.** Yamin D et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA. 2016; 113 (46): 13239-44; **11.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). RSV Prevention. 2020. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html/> (last access: July 2022).

MAT-IT-2300590 - March 2023

sanofi

With the patronage of