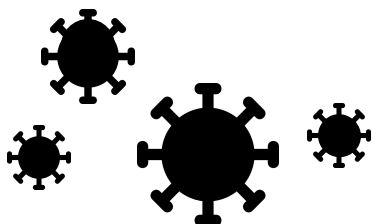


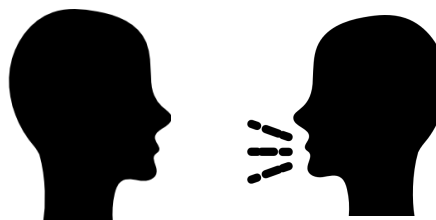
Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV)



Fact Sheet



RSV is caused by a virus, which infects the nose, throat, and lungs.



RSV usually spreads from person to person in droplets of coughs and sneezes. You can also get RSV from touching a contaminated surface and then touching your own mouth or nose before washing your hands.

Signs and Symptoms



Fever



Coughing



Sneezing



Sore Throat

RSV is a respiratory illness. Symptoms of RSV include fever, coughing, sneezing, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and wheezing. In very young infants breathing problems, fussiness, and low activity may be the only symptoms. RSV can cause upper and lower lung infections, pneumonia, and difficulty breathing requiring hospital treatment.

It is hard to tell RSV from other causes of respiratory illnesses on the basis of symptoms alone. A lab test can confirm that an illness is RSV.

The time from when a person is exposed to RSV to when symptoms begin is four to six days. People with RSV are usually contagious for three to eight days. Most RSV infections go away on their own in a week or two.

Prevention



- There is no vaccine or specific treatment available for RSV.



- Wash hands with soap
- Do not share eating utensils
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Refrain from kissing

A drug is available to prevent severe RSV illness in certain infants and children who are at high risk for severe disease. This drug can help prevent severe RSV disease, but cannot help cure or treat the illness. Talk to a healthcare provider to see if this is right for your child.

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/rsv.shtml
2. www.cdc.gov/rsv

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.