

RSV vaccines for adults

About RSV

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms, but complications can be severe, including hospitalization and death. RSV vaccine can prevent severe lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV.

RSV is usually spread through direct contact with the virus, such as when droplets from another person's cough or sneeze contact your eyes, nose, or mouth. It can also be spread by touching a surface that has virus on it, and then touching your face before you wash your hands.

RSV can cause illness in people of all ages, but may be especially serious for infants and older adults. Those with chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease, weakened immune systems, or who live in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities are also at higher risk of serious illness and complications from RSV.

Symptoms of RSV infection may include runny nose, coughing, sneezing, fever, or wheezing. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, resulting in shortness of breath and low oxygen levels. RSV can also make other medical conditions worse, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, or congestive heart failure.

Important details

CDC estimates that RSV infection causes about 60,000–160,000 hospitalizations and 6,000–10,000 deaths each year among adults ages 65 years and older.

CDC recommends a single dose of RSV vaccine for:

- All adults ages 75 and older.
- Adults ages 50–74 at increased risk for severe RSV disease.

RSV vaccine is currently recommended as a single, lifetime dose. People who have already gotten an RSV vaccine are not currently recommended to receive additional RSV vaccines.

RSV vaccine may be given year-round, but the best time to get the vaccine is in the late summer or early fall, just before RSV season begins.

RSV vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines if a patient is due for more.



What to expect after vaccination

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination—this is how you know the vaccine is working. Side effects are usually mild and disappear on their own within a few days. Some normal immune responses after the RSV vaccine include:

- pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- fever
- headache
- nausea
- diarrhea
- muscle or joint pain

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in your ears. As with any medicine, there is a very small chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of RSV vaccine
- has any severe, life-threatening allergies

In some cases, a healthcare provider may decide to postpone RSV vaccination until a future visit. People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately to severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting an RSV vaccine.

Serious neurologic conditions, including Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) have been reported very rarely after RSV vaccination in clinical trials. It is unclear whether the vaccine caused these events.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/rsv or talk to your healthcare provider.

RSV vaccination statistics

1.15 million

estimated medically attended RSV infections each year in the U.S.

About 14.5%

of RSV infections in the U.S. result in hospitalization.

3 RSV vaccines

approved by CDC for older adults in the U.S.

For more vaccine information, go to immunize.utah.gov or scan the QR code!

