RSV VACCINE FOR ADULTS

About RSV

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

RSV is usually spread through direct contact with the virus, such as droplets from another person’s cough or sneeze contacting your eyes, nose, or mouth. It can also be spread by touching a surface that has the virus on it, like a doorknob, and then touching your face before washing 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 at highest risk of serious illness and complications from RSV.

Symptoms of RSV infection may include runny nose, decrease in appetite, 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 sometimes lead to worsening of other medical conditions, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or congestive heart failure.

CDC estimates that every year, RSV causes approximately 60,000-160,000 hospitalizations and 6,000-10,000 deaths among older adults.

CDC recommends adults ages 60 years and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine, based on shared clinical decision making between the patient and healthcare provider.

Discuss the risks and benefits with your healthcare provider to determine if, and when, RSV vaccine is right for you. Preferences of patient and provider, vaccine information, and, most importantly, individual risk for severe RSV disease should be discussed to determine optimal timing of vaccine administration.

RSV vaccine is currently recommended as a single dose. Studies are ongoing to determine whether (and if so, when) revaccination may be needed.

RSV vaccine may be administered at the same time as other vaccines if you are due for more than one.
**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 injection site
- Fatigue
- 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 the ears. As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

**RSV Vaccination Statistics**

- **Estimated 1.15 Million** Medically attended RSV infections annually in the United States
- **Approximately 14.5%** Of all RSV infections in the United States result in hospital admission
- **2 RSV Vaccines** with promising vaccine efficacy and safety studies are available for adults ages 60 and older

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, your 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 or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting 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.

Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.

For more vaccine information, go to Immunize.Utah.gov or scan the QR code!