



# RSV prevention in infants

## About RSV

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is one of the most common causes of childhood respiratory illness but can affect individuals of all ages. While most infants and young children experience mild, cold-like symptoms, some infants, especially with their first infection, develop lower respiratory tract disease such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis. These infections often lead to physician office visits or hospitalization.

An estimated 58,000-80,000 children younger than age 5 are hospitalized each year in the US due to RSV infection. Each year, an estimated 100-300 children younger than 5 years of age die due to RSV. Premature infants, and those with chronic lung disease or significant congenital heart disease are at highest risk for severe RSV disease.

Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) is a monoclonal antibody that works as passive immunization, to protect infants and young children at increased risk from severe RSV disease. One dose of nirsevimab, administered as a single intramuscular injection prior to or during RSV season, may provide protection against RSV for about 5 months. This provides coverage for the average length of one RSV season. If other immunizations are needed at the time it is given, nirsevimab may be given at the same visit.

Nirsevimab is safe and effective in preventing lower respiratory tract disease due to RSV.

## Important details

CDC recommends one dose of nirsevimab (Beyfortus) for all **infants < 8 months of age**, born during or entering their first RSV season if mother did not receive RSV vaccine, or if her vaccination status is unknown. Nirsevimab is not needed for most infants born 14 days or more after maternal vaccination.

For a small group of children between the ages of **8 and 19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease**, such as children who are severely immunocompromised, an additional dose is recommended in their second RSV season.

Palivizumab (Synagis) is another monoclonal antibody product designed to prevent severe RSV disease. It is limited to children younger than 24 months of age with certain conditions that place them at high risk and must be given once a month during RSV season.

