



## Why pregnant people should get an RSV vaccine: Suggested talking points

- **RSV is a common respiratory virus that can make some people—particularly babies, young children, and older adults—very sick.**
  - Symptoms typically appear [four to six days](#) after getting infected and may include a runny nose or congestion, coughing, sneezing, fever, decreased appetite, and wheezing.
  - Infants with RSV may also show symptoms like irritability, decreased activity or appetite, and difficulty breathing.
  - Every year, close to 60,000-80,000 U.S. children under 5 [are hospitalized due to RSV](#). They may experience complications like pneumonia, bronchiolitis, or life-threatening pauses in breathing (called apnea).
  - Babies who are born prematurely, have weakened immune systems, or have chronic lung disease are more likely to develop a severe infection.
- **Vaccines during pregnancy are a safe way to help protect infants from severe RSV.**
  - The CDC recommends one dose of Pfizer's Abrysvo RSV vaccine for people who are between [32-36 weeks](#) pregnant during September through January, when RSV is more likely to spread.
  - [New research suggests](#) that getting vaccinated at 32 weeks of pregnancy may be best, since it gives the immune system more time to transfer antibodies to the developing fetus.
  - Even though most adults are not at high risk for severe infection, pregnant people who receive an RSV vaccine pass protective antibodies to their developing fetus. That helps protect infants during the first six months of their life, when they are at the highest risk of a severe RSV infection.
  - RSV vaccination during pregnancy [has been shown to be safe](#), and side effects are typically mild.
  - Babies younger than 8 months whose gestational parent did not receive an RSV vaccine during pregnancy should receive nirsevimab, an RSV antibody, between October and March to help protect against the virus. Nirsevimab is also recommended for some young children who are at increased risk of severe RSV.
- **Pregnant people can get an RSV vaccine at many pharmacies or from a health care provider, and it's covered by most insurance plans.**
  - Those who are un- or underinsured or whose insurance plans do not cover RSV vaccination can explore coverage through state and local health departments, public insurance programs like Medicaid and CHIP, or pharmacy programs like GoodRx.
  - It's safe to get an RSV vaccine [at the same time](#) as other vaccines that are recommended [during pregnancy](#).
  - Those who received an RSV vaccine during a previous pregnancy do not need another one, but their babies should receive nirsevimab, which is typically covered by insurance. Children who do not have access to vaccines through family insurance can receive nirsevimab [at no cost](#) through the Vaccines for Children Program.
  - Find pharmacies near you at [Vaccines.gov](#).



## Why pregnant people should get an RSV vaccine: Frequently asked questions

### 1. Who is most at risk of severe RSV, and what are the symptoms?

While RSV isn't dangerous for most healthy people, those who have weaker immune systems or underlying health conditions—including older adults, young children, and babies—could get very sick and require hospitalization.

RSV symptoms typically appear [four to six days](#) after getting infected and may include a runny nose or congestion, coughing, sneezing, fever, decreased appetite, and wheezing. Infants with RSV may also show symptoms like irritability, decreased activity or appetite, and difficulty breathing. Some may experience complications like pneumonia, bronchiolitis, or life-threatening pauses in breathing (called apnea).

### 2. Why should pregnant people get an RSV vaccine?

The CDC recommends one dose of Pfizer's Abrysvo RSV vaccine for people who are between [32-36 weeks](#) pregnant during September through January, when RSV is more likely to spread.

Pregnant people who receive an RSV vaccine pass protective antibodies to their developing fetus. That helps protect infants during the first six months of their life, when they are at the highest risk of a severe RSV infection. RSV vaccination during pregnancy [has been shown to be safe](#), and side effects are typically mild.

It's safe to get an RSV vaccine [at the same time](#) as other vaccines that are recommended [during pregnancy](#).

### 3. Where can pregnant people get an RSV vaccine, and how much does it cost?

Pregnant people can get an RSV vaccine at many pharmacies or from a health care provider, and it's covered by most insurance plans. Those who are un- or underinsured or whose insurance plans do not cover RSV vaccination can explore coverage through state and local health departments, public insurance programs like Medicaid and CHIP, or pharmacy programs like GoodRx.

Those who received an RSV vaccine during a previous pregnancy do not need another one, but their babies should receive nirsevimab, which is typically covered by insurance. Children who do not have access to vaccines through family insurance can receive nirsevimab [at no cost](#) through the Vaccines for Children Program.

Find pharmacies near you at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).