

Parent Information Sheet

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial virus)

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial virus) is one of the most common viruses in infants under two yrs. In healthy infants, this virus is no more serious than the common cold. Yet, in a high-risk infants, like premature babies or babies with congenital heart problems, RSV can be serious, even life-threatening!

Premature birth interrupts normal lung development& this puts infants at risk. These infants also have not yet developed a normal immune response & that's why RSV can turn very serious very quickly.

RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis & pneumonia & the number one reason for hospitalization of children under two yrs

Initially, the symptoms of RSV may be similar to a cold which may include: fever, runny nose, cough, difficulty breathing, eating, wheezing, rapid breathing & blue color around the lips. An infected, high-risk baby can get v sick v quickly. The highest months of RSV exposure are from fall through spring& it is spread like the common cold virus: by sneezing, coughing, or hand-to-hand contact.

Measures to lessen chance to become infected:

1. Caregivers should wash their hands b4 touching baby
2. Wear a mask if u have a cold or when exposing baby to other children or ppl with cold symptoms
3. Keep baby away from crowded places
4. Don't smoke around baby

There is a vaccine which protects from this virus

Babies at-risk should get an injection monthly for five months during the season.

This vaccine usually does not cause fever

Consult the Neonatologist about this vaccine

Infants who receive this vaccine have 55-78% reduced risk of being hospitalized

Neonatal Department

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