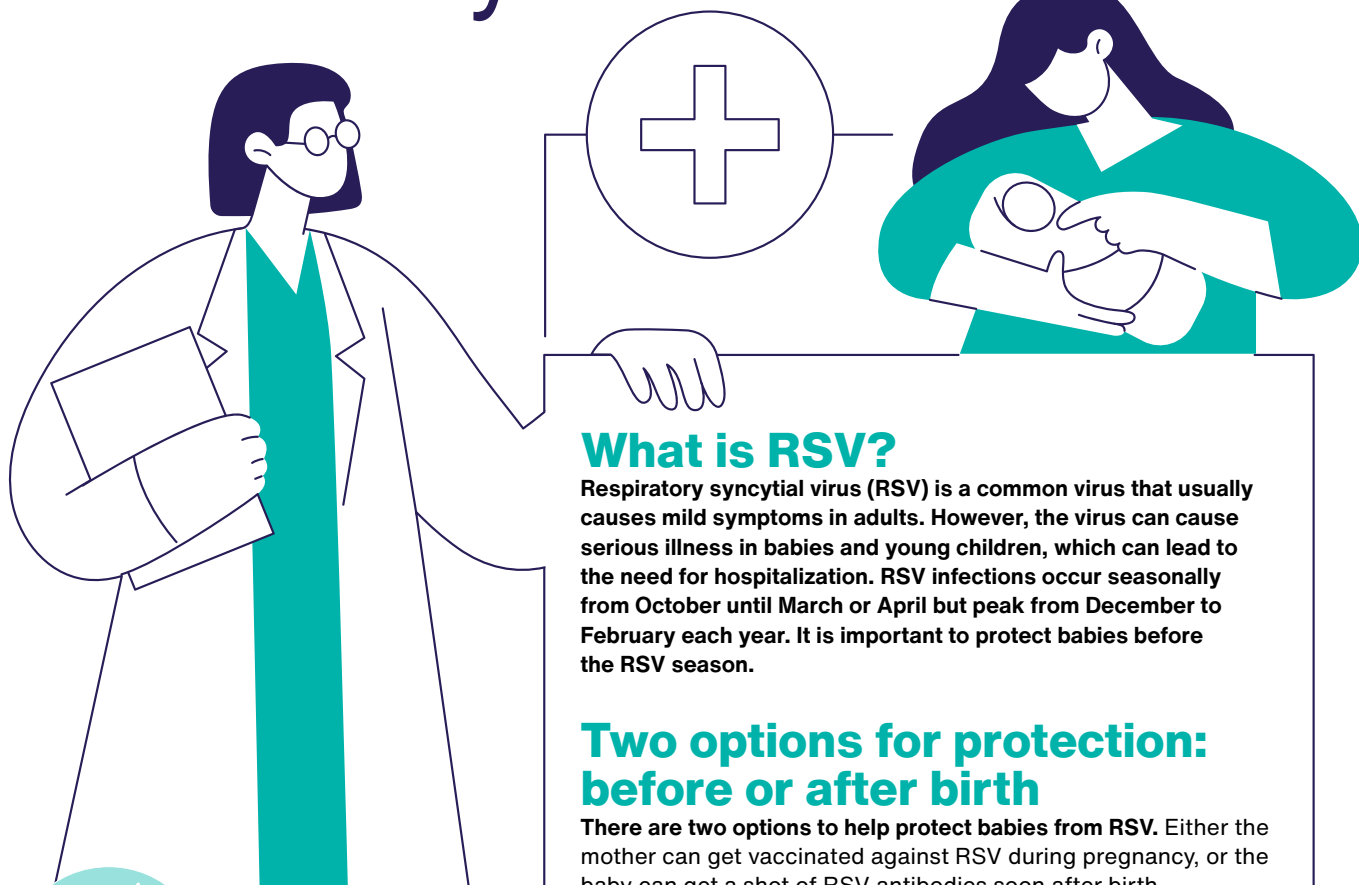


How to Protect Your Baby From RSV



What is RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that usually causes mild symptoms in adults. However, the virus can cause serious illness in babies and young children, which can lead to the need for hospitalization. RSV infections occur seasonally from October until March or April but peak from December to February each year. It is important to protect babies before the RSV season.

Two options for protection: before or after birth

There are two options to help protect babies from RSV. Either the mother can get vaccinated against RSV during pregnancy, or the baby can get a shot of RSV antibodies soon after birth.



The RSV vaccine for use during pregnancy is called Abrysvo or RSVpreF. In most parts of the United States, this vaccine is given from September through January to pregnant patients who are in weeks 32 through 36 of their pregnancy. Some places—such as Alaska, Hawaii, and tropical climates—may have other months when RSV season occurs.

The other way to prevent RSV in babies is with nirsevimab, which has the brand name Beyfortus. This is given by injection to the baby within a few days after birth. Nirsevimab contains antibodies that protect against RSV directly.

Most of the time, if you were vaccinated against RSV during pregnancy, your baby will not need to receive nirsevimab. However, in some cases, it could be the more appropriate choice for your baby. Your physicians can discuss those situations with you.



How well does the maternal RSV vaccine work?

RSV vaccine given during pregnancy causes your body to make its own antibodies that pass to the baby through the placenta before birth. These antibodies help protect the baby for the first few months of life. Studies found that RSV vaccine reduced severe disease by 82% in the first 3 months of life, when the risk of RSV hospitalization is the highest.



Is the vaccine safe?

Abrysvo is safe during pregnancy. The most common adverse effects are mild, such as pain at the injection site, headache, muscle pain, and nausea.

RSV vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines that are recommended during pregnancy, including the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), influenza, and COVID-19 vaccines.

Talk to your health care provider

Talk to your health care provider about the RSV vaccine to see if it is right for you. The vaccine helps prevent severe RSV disease in babies during their first 6 months and helps reduce their risk of going to the hospital. Additionally, the vaccine is safe to receive during pregnancy (at 32 to 36 weeks). Additional information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/infants-young-children/index.html>.

Acknowledgments

APhA gratefully acknowledges financial support from Pfizer, Inc. for the development of this resource.

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