

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation for children

Have you had the conversation with your doctor or nurse about protecting your child against RSV?

What is RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus. It can infect the lungs. It usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms but can cause serious illness. Most children will have been infected by RSV by the time they are 2 years old.

What are the symptoms of RSV?

- Runny nose
- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Fever
- Sneezing
- Decreased appetite

How serious is RSV for children?

RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia. Severe infection can occur. It is more common in very young infants or those with underlying medical conditions.

What is the best way to prevent the RSV?

The best way to prevent RSV is to get your baby immunised before winter which is the RSV season – April to September.

The immunisation will give your child immunity for up to 5 months.

This immunisation has been shown to be safe and effective.

What about influenza and COVID-19?

The best way to prevent the flu is to get the influenza vaccine at the start of each flu season (before winter).

The vaccine will give your child immunity for up to 6-12 months and can be given to children from 6 months of age. It is free for all West Australians.

COVID-19 vaccines are currently available for children with medical risk conditions and severely compromised immune systems older than 6 months.



The RSV immunisation (Nirsevimab) is FREE for children most at risk, including:

- Young infants entering their first RSV season - All children born between 1 October 2023 to 30 April 2024 will be able to receive a single dose of Nirsevimab.
- Children born during RSV season - Nirsevimab will be offered to all babies born in WA between 1 May to 30 September 2024 through birthing hospitals.
- All Aboriginal children born from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2024.
- High risk children entering their second RSV season - Children born after 1 October 2022 who have a medical condition placing them at-risk for severe RSV disease will be eligible to receive Nirsevimab.

Your child's doctor will let you know if your one-year-old child would benefit from receiving the RSV immunisation because of a medical condition.

Where can my children receive the free RSV immunisation?

- Their general practitioner (GP)
- WA Country Health Services (WACHS)
- Metropolitan Child and Adolescent Community Health (CACH) clinics
- Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS)

Alternatively walk into or book an appointment at the PCH Stan Perron Immunisation Centre, Level 1, Clinic D, from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Phone 6456 3721.

This program will not be available at pharmacies.



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service



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