

How RSV Affects Adults

About RSV^{1,2}

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a virus similar to the flu or COVID-19. It can cause seasonal outbreaks in people of all ages.

RSV season is usually in the winter.



RSV can cause severe disease in infants, young children, and older adults.



Older adults are at high risk for complications and death from RSV.^{3,4}



In adults aged 65 years or older, RSV is as harmful as the flu.

Complications from RSV

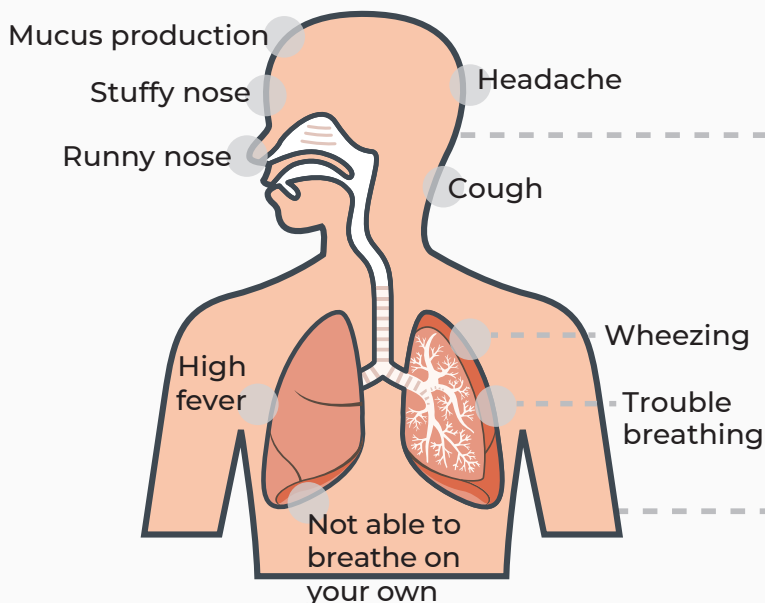
(eg, needing oxygen, being in the hospital) can occur more in older adults than in younger adults.



Chronic medical conditions such as heart and/or lung disease increase the risk of being in the hospital because of RSV.

Signs and Symptoms of RSV Infection^{3,5,6}

- RSV symptoms can be similar to those of the cold, flu, or COVID-19.
 - For most people, symptoms from RSV get better within 1-2 weeks, but they may last longer depending on age and other medical conditions.



• RSV infections mostly cause coldlike symptoms.

• RSV can affect the lungs in very young children, older adults, people with heart or lung conditions, and people with weakened immune systems.

- RSV can cause an infection in the airways or lungs.
- RSV can cause heart failure and worsen asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease in severe cases.

Managing RSV Infections^{3,6,7}

There is no specific treatment for RSV infection. Instead, care is focused on:



1 Managing fever and pain



2 Drinking plenty of water

- In most cases, **no antibiotics are needed**.
- If you have **other lung conditions** with acute wheezing, talk to your healthcare provider for medicines that could help.

Steps for Preventing Infections³

Wash your hands often



Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing



Keep your hands away from your face



Stay away from people who are sick



Clean and disinfect surfaces



Stay home when you are sick



References

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