

# Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination

Help protect your baby against RSV from first breath.

ABRYSVO is the only RSV vaccine approved for use in pregnant women.



## Dear Expectant Mother,

For most women, pregnancy is a time of great joy and excitement. At the same time, it's also a period of change and unexpected moments. As your due date approaches, you've probably already taken a number of steps to care for your unborn baby – and to help prepare for the unexpected in lots of small but important ways.

You've received this brochure because your doctor has prescribed ABRYSVO to help protect your baby against respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV for short. ABRYSVO is given as a single injection at 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy.

Following injection with ABRYSVO, your body produces antibodies to RSV, which pass to your baby via your placenta. These antibodies will help to protect your baby against airway and lung disease caused by RSV, from birth through to six months of age, at the time when they are most vulnerable.

In a large clinical trial among nearly 7,500 pregnant women, ABRYSVO helped to prevent airway and lung disease in their babies for the first six months after birth. Vaccination with ABRYSVO also reduced the number of hospital admissions due to RSV in these babies.



### What is RSV?

RSV is a highly contagious virus that can affect people of all ages, but it's particularly common in babies and young children. Most children will experience an RSV infection by two years of age, and it's possible to get RSV multiple times.

While RSV is usually a mild infection, it can sometimes cause a serious chest infection in the small airways (bronchiolitis) or air sacs (pneumonia) within the lungs. RSV is a leading cause of these two types of chest infection among babies and young children, resulting in as many hospitalisations as influenza. RSV can also be unpredictable, with most hospitalisations occurring in previously healthy babies.

### Who is at risk?

In children, the following groups are at increased risk of developing serious complications from an RSV infection:

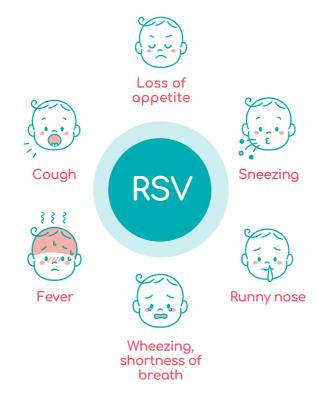
- Babies under six months old (especially those under three months old)
- Premature babies
- Babies and young children with other medical conditions
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies and young children.

## What are the symptoms of RSV in babies?

In newborns and young infants, the only symptoms you may notice include:

- Irritability
- Crying
- Decreased activity
- Sleeping for longer than usual
- Breathing difficulties, including pauses in breathing during sleep (apnoea).

Other general symptoms to look out for in babies and young children include:



# How is RSV spread?

 By airborne droplets, which can be easily passed from person to person when an infected individual coughs or sneezes.

 By touching infected objects, such as cups, tables, door handles and cot railings, as the virus can survive on hard surfaces for up to several hours.





# What everyday steps can help to prevent RSV?

Symptoms usually develop gradually after coming into contact with someone who has RSV, and they can last for 1 to 2 weeks.

Here are some steps you can take to help limit the spread:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Stay at home when you're sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Throw used tissues straight into a bin
- Clean and disinfect any potentially contaminated surfaces or objects.

# Vaccination in pregnancy can protect your baby

The Australian Immunisation Handbook provides comprehensive information and guidance about the safe and effective use of all vaccines approved for use in Australia. This guidance is based on the best available scientific evidence from around the world.

In June 2024, the Australian Immunisation Handbook was updated to recommend the RSV vaccination during pregnancy.

As a result, there are now three routinely recommended vaccinations for pregnant women:

Vaccine	Recommended timing
Influenza	Anytime during pregnancy
Pertussis (whooping cough)	Ideally at 20 to 32 weeks of pregnancy (given with diphtheria and tetanus)
RSV	At 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy

Please talk to your healthcare professional about the best time to receive your vaccination(s).

There is extensive evidence demonstrating the safety of vaccination during pregnancy. Clinical studies have found no evidence that these vaccines harm the developing baby. All vaccines approved for use in Australia have been deemed to provide benefits that outweigh the risks.



Learn more about Vaccination for Women Who are Pregnant



ABRYSVO is a vaccine given as a single injection at 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy to help protect your baby against airway and lung disease caused by RSV. It can also be given to adults aged 60 years or older.

As with any vaccine, ABRYSVO may not fully protect all those who receive it, and may cause side effects. The most common side effects include: pain, swelling or redness around the injection area, muscle pain and headaches. If you experience side effects, they are likely to be minor and temporary.

ABRYSVO has not been linked to any serious side effects in babies who were monitored for two years after birth.



This vaccine is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. You can help by reporting any side effects you may get. You can report side effects to your doctor, or directly at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.



For more information about ABRYSVO, please read the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

Speak to your healthcare professional if you have any further questions about ABRYSVO and how it can help to protect your baby against RSV.

## Further reading

Additional information on RSV can be found via Pfizer Your Health:



Maternal Immunisation





**RSV** Revealed



Please note that this brochure is intended to provide general education on RSV and ABRYSVO. For more information or medical advice, please consult your healthcare professional.

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