



Vaccines for Children NORTH DAKOTA

Brought to you by North Dakota Health & Human Services

Cost should not be a barrier to immunization. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides vaccines for children who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid eligible or American Indian/Alaska Native. VFC vaccines are available at most private clinics, local public health, and Indian Health Services/tribal health.



Don't Kid Around With RSV.

TAKE THE LITTLE STEP TO PROTECT YOUR LITTLE ONES.

Fall is the start of RSV season.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is an inflammation of the lungs and respiratory tract, with most children getting the virus by 2 years of age.

RSV can be dangerous for infants and young children because it may lead to severe illness and is the #1 cause of hospitalization for children under age 2.

Nirsevimab is the first monoclonal antibody (passive immunization) available to offer short-term protection through one RSV season. Nirsevimab reduces risk of hospitalization and health care visits by 80%, so take protective steps now.

Talk with your child's health care provider about protecting your young children from severe illness with nirsevimab.

RSV EFFECTS

RSV is a common respiratory illness that most children get before the age of two, causing mild, cold-like symptoms that usually go away on their own. However, RSV can be serious and is the leading cause of hospitalization among U.S. infants. An estimated 79% of children younger than 2 hospitalized with RSV have no underlying conditions. Children who are at a greater risk of developing severe illness from RSV include:

- Premature infants
- Infants up to 12 months, especially those 6 months and younger
- Children younger than 2 years with chronic lung disease or congenital (present from birth) heart disease
- Children with weakened immune systems
- Children who have neuromuscular disorders, including those who have difficulty swallowing or clearing mucus secretions
- American Indian and Alaskan Native children ages 12-23 months are 4-10 times more likely to be hospitalized than other children

RSV SYMPTOMS

Early symptoms of RSV infection usually include runny nose, poor appetite, coughing, sneezing, fever, and wheezing. Very young infants may become irritable or sleepy. More alarmingly, they may turn blue with a cough, or have brief periods of not breathing.

RSV TREATMENT

Treatment is primarily supportive care to relieve symptoms and steps to prevent dehydration. Discuss treatment options with a health care provider.

RSV PROTECTION

Nirsevimab immunization reduces the risk of hospitalization and health care visits by 80%. Immunizations are available to certain groups at higher risk for severe disease due to RSV. Health care providers follow these recommended guidelines:

- Infants born in the RSV season (October – March) should receive one dose of nirsevimab during the first week of life, to protect them through one RSV season
- Infants under 8 months should receive one dose of nirsevimab before or early in their first RSV season
- Children 8-19 months at increased risk of severe RSV disease (American Indian, severely immunocompromised, have chronic lung disease, are premature or have cystic fibrosis) are recommended to receive a dose of nirsevimab before or early in their second RSV season.
- Most infants will not need nirsevimab if their mother was vaccinated against RSV during pregnancy at 32-36 weeks gestation.



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