

## side effects

### Are there any side effects?

The most common side effect is redness at the injection site. Serious allergic reactions can happen, but they are very rare. For the most updated information, please discuss this with your doctor or nurse.

## prevention

### What can I do to protect my baby or child from getting RSV?

Remember that RSV can be spread by droplets. You can stop the spread of RSV if you:

- Stay away from your premature baby while in hospital, **if** you have a cold (sneezing, coughing, runny nose or fever).
- After discharge from hospital, keep people who are sick with coughs and runny noses away from your baby
- Wash your hands with alcohol based hand rub or soap and water before touching your baby.
- Ask everyone (including children) to wash their hands with alcohol based hand rub or soap and water before touching the baby.
- Do not let anyone smoke near your baby.
- Keep your baby away from crowds.

## information

### Who can I call if I have a question about RSV?

If you have a question about RSV you can call the RSV Information Line at 416-813-8797. Leave a message and someone will call you during the week from one of the three Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU's) in downtown Toronto.

***Call your doctor if your baby is sick.***

## prescription

### How will my baby get the medicine while in the hospital and after we go home?

The RSV medicine can be given in the hospital and continued after discharge in the doctor's office or RSV clinic.

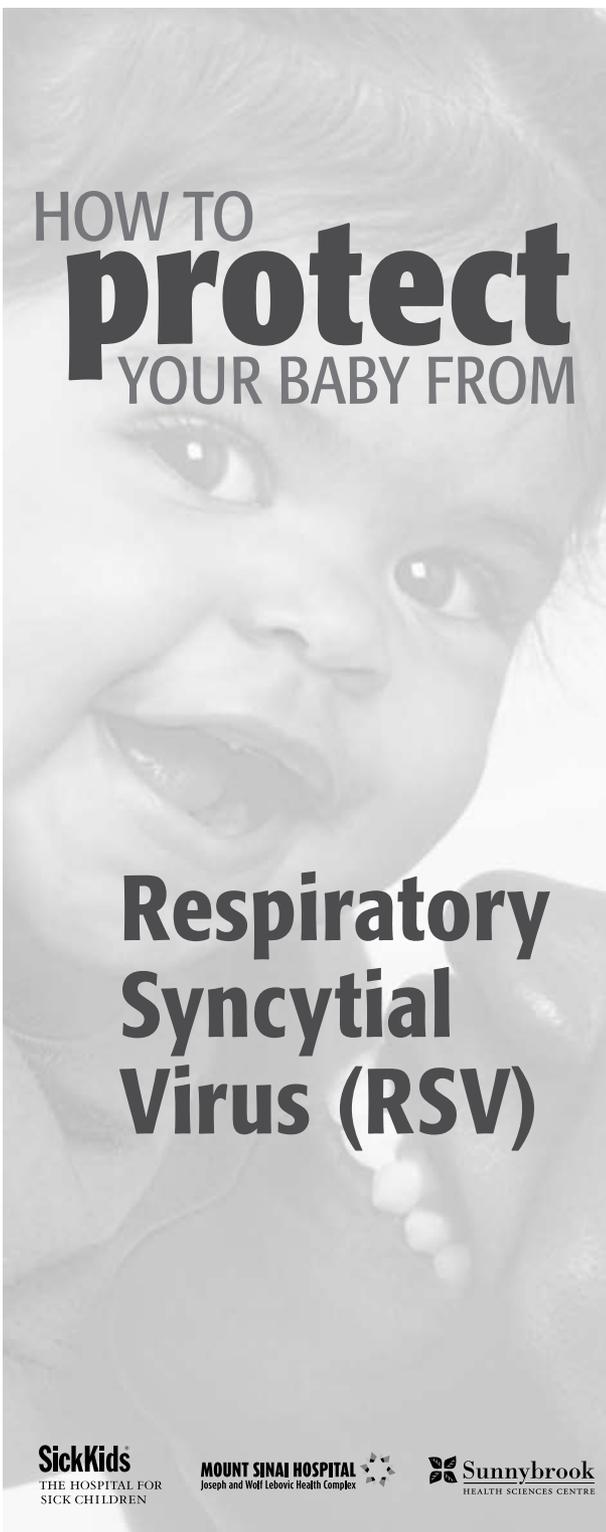
You should also:

- Keep a note of the reference number and the dates of the RSV injections on your baby's regular immunization card.
- Remind your baby's doctor or nurse to give the medicine once a month during RSV season (between November and April).

Prepared by the Tri-Hospital Collaborative RSV Prophylaxis Group (SickKids, Mount Sinai Hospital and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre) with assistance from AboutKidsHealth at SickKids, Toronto, Ontario.

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HOW TO  
**protect**  
YOUR BABY FROM

# Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

**SickKids**  
THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

**MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL**  
Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Health Complex

**Sunnybrook**  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

# RSV

## What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a virus which can affect your lungs. When you catch RSV it can be like having a regular cold or flu, with a runny nose, cough and a fever.

As a result of the RSV cold, some babies and children develop a severe form of RSV disease. They may have a bad chest infection. This is very serious and may need to be treated in a hospital.

Most children, by 2 years of age will have caught a cold caused by RSV. Babies and children are most likely to catch RSV between November and April, this is when the virus is most active.

# how

## How does a person get RSV?

RSV is spread when droplets are left on the hands after someone who has a cold or is ill, sneezes or coughs, or touches their face. The RSV virus can also live on surfaces for several hours.

# protection

## Does wearing a mask prevent the spread of RSV?

Wearing a mask will not stop the spread of RSV.

# risks

## How do I know if my baby or child may get severe RSV disease?

Your baby or child has an increased chance of getting RSV disease if:

- he or she was born early (less than 33 weeks gestation) and is less than 6 months old in November.
- he or she is less than 2 years old, has chronic lung disease and has needed oxygen any time between May and October of this year.
- he or she is less than 2 years old, with certain types of congenital heart disease. You can discuss this with your baby's doctor.
- he or she has certain other risk factors or medical problems that your doctor will talk to you about.

# medication

## Is there a medicine that will protect my baby or child from RSV disease?

Presently there is a medicine that can be given to lessen the chance of your baby or child getting very sick with RSV disease.

This medicine is given into the muscle by injection.

There is no medicine that can totally prevent your baby or child from getting RSV disease.

# fighting RSV

## How does the medicine work?

The medicine works by giving your baby antibodies to fight the RSV disease. It also helps to prevent RSV from attacking your baby's lungs. To keep your baby protected, the medicine must be given by a doctor or nurse, once a month during the RSV season (usually from November to April).