

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a virus that can make babies very sick. It spreads easily through coughs, sneezes, or by touching infected surfaces, causing breathing problems, fever, and lung infections like pneumonia. **RSV is the top reason babies go to the hospital.**



Protect Your Baby from RSV

Why Get the RSV Vaccine?

- **RSV can be dangerous** for newborns and young children.
- **Two ways to protect your baby:**

During pregnancy: A vaccine for pregnant people helps protect babies at birth.

After birth: A special antibody shot helps protect newborns during RSV season.

RSV Vaccine for Pregnant People

Who? Anyone **32–36 weeks pregnant**.

When? September–January

How it helps:

- **Protects baby at birth** with antibodies.
- **Fewer hospital visits** for RSV.
- **Covered by Maryland Medicaid.**

RSV Protection After Birth

Who? Babies born during RSV season (**Oct–Mar**)

When? First 6 months of life.

How it helps:

- **Helps prevent serious RSV illness.**
- **Fewer doctor visits and hospital stays.**
- Best for babies at **higher risk** of getting very sick

Where to Get RSV Protection?

Maryland Medicaid covers the cost of RSV protection. Pregnant individuals can receive the vaccine directly from their OB-GYN if available. If your provider does not offer it, you may be able to receive a prescription to have it administered at a pharmacy, such as CVS Pharmacy. Talk to your healthcare provider to find the best option for you.

What You Can Do

- ✓ **Help stop the spread** by washing hands and staying away from sick people.
- ✓ **Ask your doctor** about RSV protection during pregnancy **OR**
- ✓ **Talk to your baby's doctor** about the antibody shot.

Questions? Speak with your healthcare provider if you have any questions or need more information.

