

RSV and Beyfortus FAQs



What Is RSV?

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is a seasonal virus that causes symptoms like cough, nasal congestion and difficulty breathing. For some babies and young children, the symptoms can be severe enough to require hospitalization. It is one of the most common reasons young children are admitted to the hospital during the winter months.

What age children are most at risk of getting severe RSV?

Young infants are the most at risk of developing severe symptoms of RSV. Toddlers and older children can get RSV too, but they usually don't get as sick.

What time of year is RSV season?

In most regions of the United States, RSV season starts in the fall and peaks in the winter, but the timing and severity of RSV season can vary from place to place and year to year.

What is Beyfortus and why is my child's doctor recommending it for my baby?

Beyfortus is a form of immunization known as a preventative antibody that is given as one shot in the thigh muscle. It is recommended for babies up to 8 months old, during RSV season. The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend babies have this shot.

Are there any babies who shouldn't have Beyfortus?

Yes, there are a few reasons a baby should not receive Beyfortus. One reason is if the baby's birth mother had an RSV vaccine during pregnancy. Please share all information you have about vaccines received in pregnancy and the baby's health history.

How well does Beyfortus work?

Research studies have shown that Beyfortus reduced the risk of severe RSV disease by about 80%. One dose of Beyfortus protects infants for at least 5 months, the length of an average RSV season.

Are there any possible side effects of Beyfortus?

The most common side effects after Beyfortus were pain, redness, or swelling where the injection was given, and a rash. No serious allergic reactions occurred in the research studies.

As with any immunization, there is a very small chance that Beyfortus could cause a severe allergic reaction or other serious injury. If you have any questions about side effects talk with your child's health care provider.