

Your child may have been exposed to:

Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common viral infection.

If you think your child has RSV, tell your childcare provider.

Keep your child home from childcare until fever is gone (without the use of a fever reducing medicine) and your child is healthy enough for routine activities.

Do not give aspirin or salicylate-containing medicines to anyone under 18 years of age.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Symptoms

Your child may have a cough, watery eyes, runny nose or stuffiness, or sneezing. Symptoms may last for 7 days.

People with severe RSV may wheeze and/or have lung congestion. RSV can be serious for premature babies and people with heart, lung, or immune system problems.

If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 8 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By coughing or sneezing.
- By touching contaminated hands, objects, or surfaces.

Contagious period

For 3 to 8 days after symptoms start. Some infants can spread RSV for up to 4 weeks.

Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. Your doctor may want to test for the virus. Antibiotics do not work for illnesses caused by viruses, including RSV.
- Infants who are hospitalized may be treated with a special medication called an antiviral drug.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with the secretions from the mouth or nose. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Do not share anything that goes into the mouth, such as drinking cups, straws, and water bottles.
- Clean and disinfect anything that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. Use a product that kills germs.
- Some babies, including infants who were born prematurely, can be given a medication to prevent infection. Talk to your health care provider.