

# Respiratory syncytial virus

## RSV Prevention Products



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**RSV Prevention Products are a part of the Routine Yukon Immunization Program.**

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a contagious respiratory virus that infects the lungs and breathing passages. Seasonal outbreaks occur in the fall and winter months. RSV can cause more serious disease in infants and older adults. It is worse for those with chronic health conditions. RSV prevention products including preventative monoclonal antibodies for infants and vaccines for older adults are available to protect those at greatest risk of RSV related complications. Talk with your health care provider about what is recommended for you or your infant.

### **RSV infection can cause:**

- a runny nose;
- coughing;
- sneezing;
- wheezing;
- fever; and
- a decrease in appetite and energy.

### **Complications may lead to:**

- a severe infection of the lower respiratory tract including bronchiolitis and pneumonia;
- wheezing symptoms for up to 5 years after infection; and
- hospitalization and death.

### **Why are RSV prevention products like vaccines and monoclonal antibodies recommended?**

Many people who are exposed to RSV only have mild symptoms, but some people are at high risk of getting very sick, including infants and older adults. This vaccine is safe and one of the most effective ways to prevent RSV infections. Getting vaccinated against RSV disease helps protect others and yourself.

### **Expected reactions of preventative antibodies**

Redness, tenderness and swelling at the injection site.

### **Expected reactions of RSV vaccines**

Redness, tenderness and swelling at the injection site. Some people may develop a fever, headache, or fatigue. These are generally mild and last 1 to 2 days.

Side effects of the immunization are easy to relieve. Apply a cold, damp compress to the site. If needed, give a pain reliever like acetaminophen. Talk to your health care provider if your symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

It's important to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine because, although it's very rare, some people might have a severe allergic reaction. The clinic can treat it right away. This happens to less than 1 in a million people. If you have a reaction after leaving, call 911 or your local emergency number.