

# RSV Fact Sheet

## What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial (pronounced sin-sish-uhl) Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that spreads in the fall and winter. It usually peaks in January and February in Montana.

## What are the Symptoms of RSV?

Symptoms usually begin within 4-6 days after getting infected and may include:

- Runny nose
- Congestion
- Decrease in appetite
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing

In very young infants with RSV, their only symptoms may be irritability, decreased activity, and breathing difficulties.



## When to Seek Emergency Care

RSV can cause severe illness such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis. **Call your healthcare professional if you are having difficulty breathing, are dehydrated, or are experiencing worsening symptoms.**

## What to Do If You Test Positive

Individuals with RSV should take steps to relieve their symptoms, including:

- **Manage fever and pain** with over-the-counter fever reducers and pain relievers, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. **Never give aspirin to children.** Talk with a provider before giving a child a non-prescription cold medicine.
- **Drink fluids.** It is important for people with RSV infection to drink enough fluids to prevent dehydration.

Individuals with RSV should **stay home and away from others until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication** and have an improvement in symptoms.

## Important Information



**Emergency: 911**



**Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222**



**Closest Emergency Provider:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:**

This guidance is for members of the general public.