



How to protect your baby against RSV

What is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)?

RSV is a common virus that can cause respiratory (breathing) infections in young babies. Babies under six months old get sicker with RSV than older babies.

RSV immunisation is free. It protects your baby from severe RSV infection, reducing the risk of a hospital stay by over 80%.

How common is RSV?

- **1 in 2 babies** get RSV each winter. Many need medical care from a doctor or emergency department.
- **3 in 100** babies are taken to hospital and some need intensive care.

How can I get my baby immunised against RSV?

- Babies born **1 Sept 2026–28 Feb 2027**: We offer immunisation to your baby before you leave maternity hospital.
- Babies born **1 March 2026–31 Aug 2026**: You get it from your baby's GP.
- **High-risk babies** under 24 months: Ask your paediatrician or neonatologist.

Immunisation with nirsevimab

- We recommend nirsevimab to immunise your baby from serious RSV infection.
- It works immediately to protect your baby for around 5 months over autumn and winter when RSV is at its highest.
- You can get it alongside other childhood vaccines.
- It works to directly give your baby antibodies to fight infection.

Safety and side effects

- Studies have shown nirsevimab to be safe and effective.
- Most babies have no side effects. Fewer than 1 in 100 may have rash or redness or a temperature.
- Allergic reactions or hypersensitivity are rare.
- Babies are monitored closely for 15 minutes after the injection.



Learn more

If you have any questions, speak to your midwife, practice nurse, public health nurse, GP or paediatrician.

- hse.ie/RSV
- European Medicines Agency: ema.europa.eu



Plain English
Approved by NALA

