



## Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV is a major cause of respiratory illness in young children. It causes infection of the lungs and breathing passages. RSV can be spread through droplets when a child coughs or sneezes. It can also live on countertops, doorknobs, hands, and clothing. RSV can spread rapidly through schools and child-care centers. Although most RSV infections appear as colds, some can be severe enough to cause hospitalization. Most kids are infected with RSV at least once by age four.

**See reverse side for more about how to prevent and treat RSV.**



# How to handle RSV infections

- Closely monitor infants and younger children, especially those born prematurely or with chronic lung or heart disease that have an increased risk of RSV infections.
- Make sure your child washes his or her hands. This is especially important after touching infected surfaces or having contact with someone with cold symptoms.
- At home, make your child with an RSV infection as comfortable as possible. Allow time for recovery and provide plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Call your child's pediatrician if your child experiences a high fever, thick nasal discharge, a worsening cough, or trouble breathing.
- If your child is experiencing trouble breathing, loss of consciousness, signs of severe dehydration, or fever of 100.6 or higher for infants younger than 8 weeks, seek emergency care.

**Visit [cardinalglennon.com/closetohome](https://cardinalglennon.com/closetohome) to view a list of SSM Health Cardinal Glennon pediatricians, urgent cares, emergency rooms, and specialty care services in your area.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SSM Health ministries implemented enhanced safety measures, which are evaluated periodically based on COVID-19 transmission numbers. To ensure your protection and that of others, we continue to require face masks upon entry along with ministry-specific screening processes.

