

# Older Adults Are at High Risk for Severe RSV Illness

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or **RSV**, is a common virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages

- ✓ **RSV vaccine is available to adults 60 and over**
- ✓ **It can PROTECT against severe illness**
- ✓ **Talk to your doctor to see if vaccination is right for you**

## RSV can be dangerous for older adults

Adults who are **60 years or older** are at highest risk, especially:

- Adults who have chronic heart or lung disease
- Adults who have weakened immune systems

## RSV can lead to serious conditions

- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
- Hospitalization
- More severe symptoms for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- More severe symptoms for people with congestive heart failure

## Everyday preventive measures help protect against respiratory viruses

- Wash hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Clean frequently touched surfaces
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Stay home when sick



**EACH  
YEAR  
RSV**

**causes  
serious illness  
in older adults**

**60,000–160,000  
hospitalizations**

**6,000–10,000  
deaths**



[www.cdc.gov/rsv](http://www.cdc.gov/rsv)