

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Adults **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**

How does RSV appear in adults?

RSV is a common cause of acute respiratory infection in adults and can lead to lower respiratory tract disease, hospitalization, and though not common, death—particularly in older adults and those with certain underlying conditions.[1-3]

Most adults have mild, upper-respiratory symptoms that resolve in 1 to 2 weeks.[1] However, RSV can be severe and can precipitate **pneumonia** and can exacerbate **asthma**, **COPD, and heart failure**. Adults aged ≥75 years and adults 50 to 74 with certain underlying conditions are at increased risk of severe RSV.[1,2]

Each year in the U.S., approximately **177,000 adults aged 65 and older are hospitalized** due to RSV infection and approximately **14,000 of them die from RSV infection.**[3]

Who is recommended to receive RSV vaccination?[2]

50–74

According to the CDC, adults 50 to 74 years of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease* are recommended to receive a single dose of RSV vaccine

75+

According to the CDC, adults 75 years of age and older are recommended to receive a single dose of RSV vaccine

*Please see CDC for list of CDC-identified risk factors for severe RSV disease.

CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

How should the vaccine be administered?[2]



Single dose only

RSV vaccination is **not** an annual vaccine. Adults who have already received a dose should not receive another dose of RSV vaccine.



When to vaccinate

Eligible adults may be vaccinated at any time of year, but vaccination offers the most benefits when given in late summer or early fall, just before RSV typically begins circulating.



Coadministration

RSV vaccines can be coadministered with other recommended adult vaccines during the same visit. Data on immunogenicity of RSV vaccines and other vaccines when coadministered are currently limited. Coadministration of RSV vaccine with one or more adult vaccines during the same visit may increase common side effects.[2,4]

Discuss risks of RSV and vaccination options with patients and their caregivers

References: 1. Clinical overview of RSV. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed July 8, 2025. Accessed November 18, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html **2.** RSV vaccine guidance for older adults. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed July 8, 2025. Accessed November 18, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/hcp/vaccine-clinical-guidance/adults.html **3.** Falsey AR et al. Respiratory syncytial virus infection in elderly and high-risk adults. *N Engl J Med*. 2005;352(17):1749-1759. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa043951 **4.** Getting a flu vaccine and other recommended vaccines at the same time. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reviewed September 17, 2024. Accessed November 18, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines/coadministration.html

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