Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

In late 2022, the CDC identified an outbreak of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), which is a particularly deadly disease for older adults and infants under 2 years old. While this disease is not new, the current outbreak is showing higher infection rates and more severe symptoms, hospitalizing children. Here's what you need to know about the outbreak:   
  
**Who is it effecting?**  
While RSV effects older adults and young children, most children have the disease by age 2. However, most children have mild to no symptoms. However, according to the CDC, about 250 children die each year from RSV and over 60,000 children typically are hospitalized. However, the CDC and pediatricians are concerned as one week of this year's outbreak has exceeded the 60,000 cases and hospitalizations.   
  
Many doctors believe that this year's outbreak, coupled with higher influenza cases, is contributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, where the precautions of the last two years have been forgone.   
  
**What are the symptoms?**   
People with RSV typically show symptoms 4 to 6 days after infection and can have mild to severe symptoms including runny nose, decreased appetite, coughing and wheezing, sneezing, and a fever. Severe symptoms, including breathing difficulties and decreased activity can be life-threatening. For a full list of symptoms, please visit CDC's page here: https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/symptoms.html.   
  
**Can it be prevented? Is there a vaccine?**  
At this time, there is no vaccine to prevent RSV. The ACIP has reviewed data on various RSV vaccine candidates, however, they have not yet been approved. Without a vaccine, the best prevention for RSV is to stay home when you are sick, and be careful around babies.   
  
**How can you help?**  
Educating parents on the signs and symptoms of RSV is an important step for prevention. In addition, encouraging other routine vaccines, including Tdap encourages healthy behavior in parents and families.   
  
**Resources**[**https://www.fingerlakes1.com/2022/10/31/frequently-asked-questions-regarding-rsv-outbreak/**](https://www.fingerlakes1.com/2022/10/31/frequently-asked-questions-regarding-rsv-outbreak/)[**https://www.rsvandme.com/?cc=ps\_O05RTKMOBR1479685&mcm=330002&gclid=ecc692a46e8f15665f07f1cd4d073c12&gclsrc=3p.ds&**](https://www.knowingrsv.com/?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Nirsevimab+DTC_MSFT_NBRD_Core_CNV_SEA_EXTM_US_EN+KW+-+EN+BR_ALL&utm_term=rsv&gclid=d40091f5d6d212727efbf29cfd50ccf0&gclsrc=3p.ds&)[**https://www.knowingrsv.com/?utm\_source=bing&utm\_medium=cpc&utm\_campaign=Nirsevimab+DTC\_MSFT\_NBRD\_Core\_CNV\_SEA\_EXTM\_US\_EN+KW+-+EN+BR\_ALL&utm\_term=rsv&gclid=d40091f5d6d212727efbf29cfd50ccf0&gclsrc=3p.ds&**](https://www.knowingrsv.com/?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Nirsevimab+DTC_MSFT_NBRD_Core_CNV_SEA_EXTM_US_EN+KW+-+EN+BR_ALL&utm_term=rsv&gclid=d40091f5d6d212727efbf29cfd50ccf0&gclsrc=3p.ds&)