

Keeping our clients safe

Important information about:

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

What is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a virus that can cause infection of the respiratory (breathing) system. RSV is a very common respiratory infection, especially in children under age two. The infection can be mild and cause cold-like symptoms. However, in some cases the infection can be more serious, resulting in pneumonia or bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small air passages). Children with pre-existing heart and lung conditions or weakened immune systems may be at increased risk of complications from RSV.

What are the symptoms?

- Cough
- Sneezing
- Wheezing may occur
- Runny nose
- Lower appetite
- Irritability and decreased activity in infants
- In some cases, fever

When do symptoms start?

Symptoms may develop 2 to 8 days after exposure to the illness.

How is RSV treated?

There is no specific treatment for RSV.

How does RSV spread?

RSV is spread from person to person through droplets produced from coughing or sneezing, or through contact with contaminated surfaces. People who have RSV are usually contagious for 3 to 8 days, however some people can be contagious for up to four weeks.

How can I help reduce the spread?

- Wash and sanitize your hands often
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick with RSV
- Only 2 visitors at a time per sick client.