

Keeping our bubs RSV-free this winter!

What is RSV?

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is a common cold virus that affects babies and young kids. It can lead to severe breathing problems, especially in infants, with **1 in 20 Aboriginal babies** needing hospitalisation for RSV in the first **6 months of life**. It's more common in colder months, like the flu, but can occur year-round especially in the north of WA.

What are the symptoms of RSV?



In babies **less than 6 months old**, some signs and symptoms may be *baby being unsettled, less active, feeding less and breathing hard/fast*.

How to prevent my bub from getting RSV?

The **RSV immunisation**, protects babies against RSV by providing antibodies for at least **5 months**, similar to the length of a cold season.

It is given like standard immunisations. It may cause **minor reactions**; serious side effects are rare.

Can my bub get a RSV immunisation?

Aboriginal children born on or after **1 Oct 2022** can get a **free RSV needle** at their AMS, clinic, or GP.

Babies born from **1 May 2024** will be offered the RSV needle at hospital for protection against RSV before going home.

More information?

Speak to your midwife, Aboriginal Health Practitioner, nurse or doctor or **scan the QR code**.



**Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia**

Public Health and
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