

Cause	A paramyxovirus that causes acute respiratory tract illness in persons of all ages. In infants and young children, RSV is the most important cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia.
Symptoms	Fever, cough, wheezing, watery eyes, runny nose, sneezing. Very young infants sometimes have lethargy, irritability, poor feeding, and, sometimes, spells of not breathing (apnea).
Spread	Direct or close contact with contaminated secretions from the nose and mouth during coughing and sneezing, either droplet form or on contaminated hands or surfaces. RSV may persist on surfaces for many hours and on hands for ½ hour or more.
Incubation Period	4 to 6 days common, but ranges from 2 to 8 days.
Period of Communicability	Usually 3 to 8 days but shedding may last longer, especially in young infants and in immunocompromised individuals, it may continue for as long as 3 to 4 weeks.
Diagnosis	Clinical symptoms and laboratory testing.
Treatment	Supportive treatment. Hospitalization as necessary.
Prevention/Control	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wash hands of children and self frequently with soap and running water, especially after coughing, sneezing, or wiping a nose.2. Minimize contact with respiratory secretions, such as saliva or nasal mucus.3. Dispose of any tissues or items soiled with discharges from the mouth or nose in a waste container.4. Clean and disinfect mouthed toys at least daily and when soiled.*
Exclusion	Until the fever is gone and the person is well enough to participate in normal activities.

*To sanitize mouthed toys or eating utensils: boil, use a dishwasher, or soak clean items for 2 minutes in a weak bleach solution – 3 teaspoons bleach added to 1 gallon water (or a scant teaspoon in a quart). Air dry. Do NOT rinse. This solution can also be used to disinfect clean kitchen surfaces.