Did you know?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is not just a childhood illness[1,2] — adults can catch it throughout their lives.[1–3]

What adults need to know about RSV

Hypothetical patient. For illustration purposes only.

Risk and impact of RSV in older adults

In some cases, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection can be serious in older adults.[9,12–14]

Older adults may have higher rates of severe disease that may lead to hospitalisation compared with younger adults, even if the person considers themselves to be healthy[9,13,14]

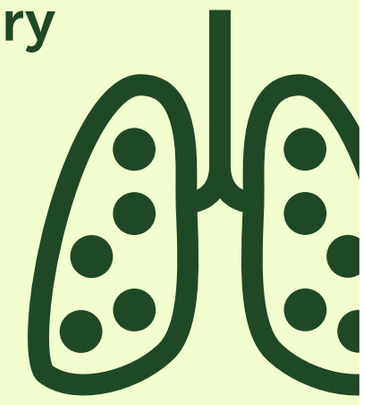
RSV and underlying health conditions

Age and any chronic medical conditions are significant factors when considering risk of RSV infection.[9,13–15]

Certain underlying conditions can put older adults at greater risk for serious complications compared with those without the condition.[14–16]

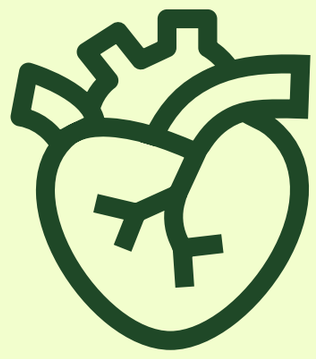
These include:

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)



Asthma

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)



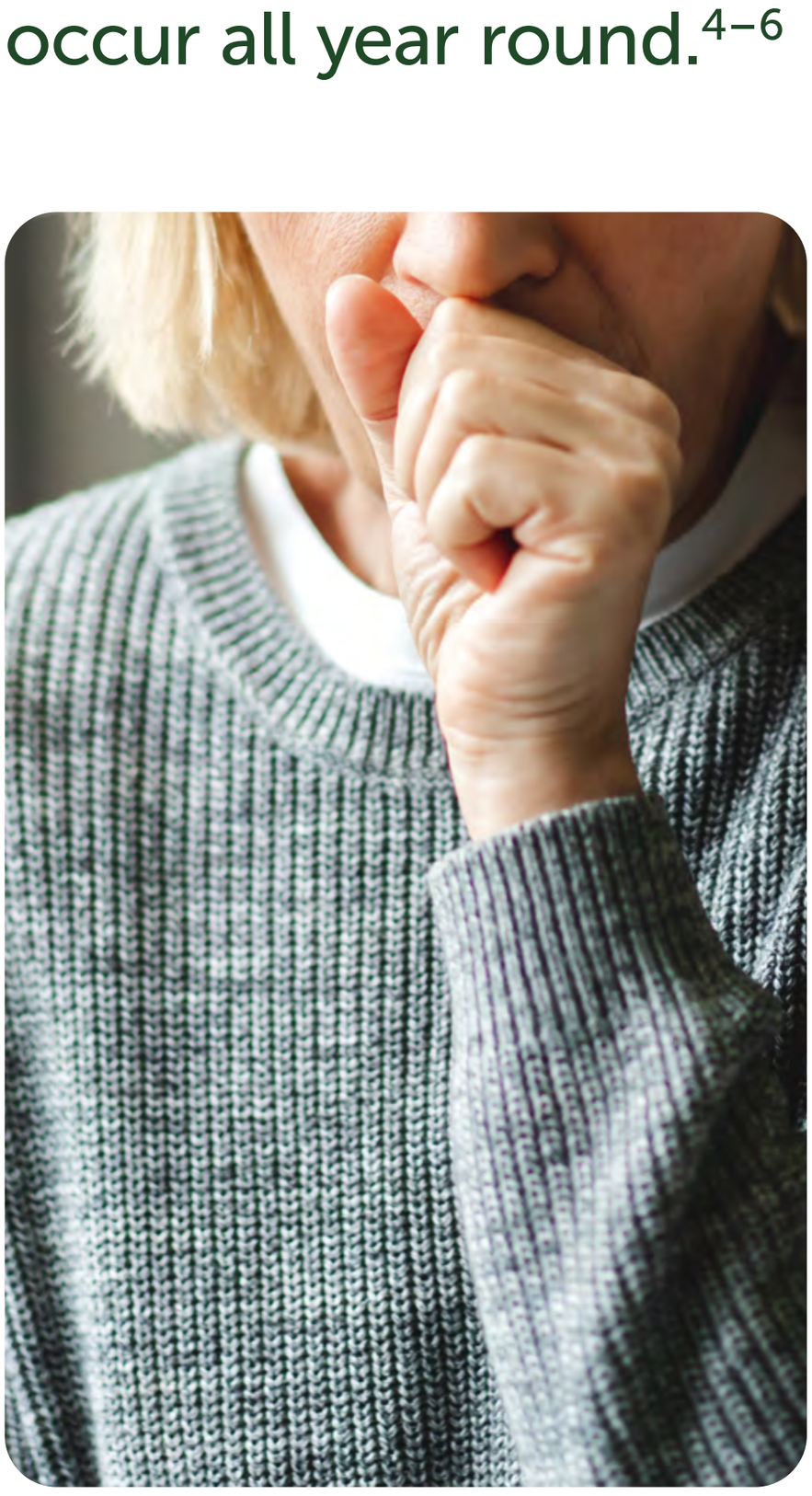
Did you know?

The immune system typically weakens with age,[1,10,11] and older adults are at greater risk of RSV infection compared with younger adults.[17]

What is respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)?

RSV is a contagious respiratory virus that not only affects infants[1,2] but also adults throughout their lives.[1–3]

RSV infections are most common in autumn and winter, but cases occur all year round.[4–6]



Hypothetical patients.
For illustration purposes only.

Adults are typically contagious for 3-8 days, but some people, especially those with weakened immune systems, can be contagious for longer.[1,7]

Did you know?

People can get RSV multiple times throughout their lives.[1–3]

How does RSV spread?

RSV can be spread through:[1,2]

A person touching their face after having touched a contaminated surface

Coughs or sneezes from infected people

Direct contact with infected people

Hypothetical patients.
For illustration purposes only.

Did you know?

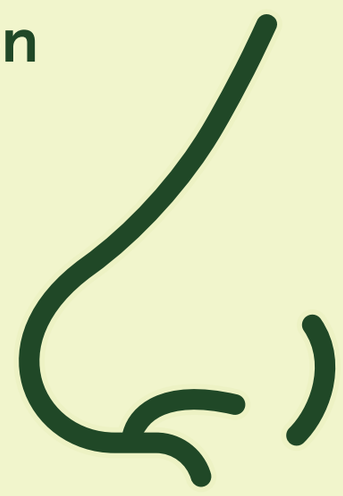
RSV can be easily spread to family members including adults and children.[8]

RSV in adults

Symptoms of RSV in adults can range from mild to severe and last up to 2 weeks.[1]

RSV symptoms in adults may include:[1,2,9]

Nasal congestion

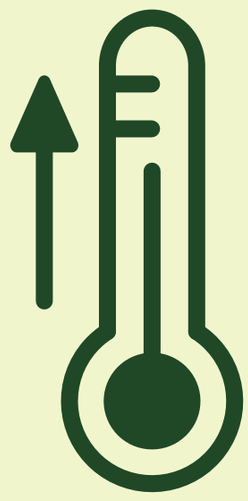


Cough

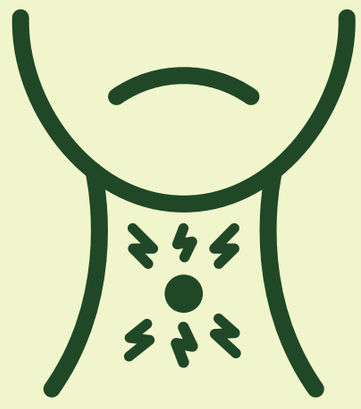
Shortness of breath and wheezing

Tiredness

Fever



Sore throat



Runny nose

Body aches

Headache

Why could RSV be a problem for older adults?

The immune system typically weakens with older age and has a harder time fighting off infections, such as those with RSV.[1,10,11]

Although usually mild,[1,12] RSV can cause serious lower respiratory complications, such as pneumonia in older adults.[1,9]

So, remember:

- RSV is a contagious respiratory virus that not only affects infants,[1,2] but also adults throughout their lives[1–3]
- RSV can be easily spread through the air, by direct contact or by contact with contaminated surfaces[1,2]
- The immune system typically weakens with age,[1,10,11] and older adults are at greater risk of RSV infection compared with younger adults[17]
- Although usually mild,[1,12] RSV can cause serious lower respiratory complications, such as pneumonia in older adults[1,9]

For more information about RSV, talk to your healthcare professional.

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