

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV is a respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Almost all children will be infected by their second birthday. However, RSV can be serious for infants, and is the most common cause of bronchiolitis in children younger than 1 year of age in the United States. It is also a significant cause of respiratory illness in older adults.

On average, each year in the United States RSV can contribute to:

- 2.1 million outpatient visits among children younger than 5 years
- 57,527 hospitalizations among children younger than 5 years including 302 in Montana
- 177,000 hospitalizations among adults older than 65 years, including 83 in Montana

Duration of RSV seasons in Montana, compared with average U.S. season, 2014-2019



PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RSV:

- Wash your hands often
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Cover your sneeze and coughs
- Clean and disinfect surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick

Premature babies and those with congenital heart disease or chronic lung conditions are at high risk for severe disease. If your child is at high risk for RSV, talk to your healthcare provider.