



RSV vaccination for people aged 60 and over: Overview of the most important information



What is RSV?

RSV stands for **respiratory syncytial virus**. RSV infects the respiratory tract and is transmitted primarily through droplets when coughing, sneezing and speaking. Transmission through objects is also possible. The RSV season generally stretches from October to March. During this period, illnesses caused by the virus are common.

Cases of RSV infection are usually mild, with symptoms similar to those of a cold. However, severe disease is also possible, leading to pneumonia, for example. RSV can also aggravate existing illnesses such as heart or lung diseases.

People with severe cases sometimes have to be treated in hospital, including in intensive care. Fatalities are also possible.



Who is advised to get an RSV vaccination?

Vaccination against RSV is recommended for the following groups of people:

- everybody **aged 75 years and over**
- anyone with **serious underlying health conditions aged 60 years and over**
- anyone **living in care facilities aged 60 years and over**

These people are at an increased risk of developing severe disease. If the underlying health conditions in people aged under 75 are adequately controlled by medication, it is recommended that you clarify with your doctor whether a vaccination is necessary.

The aim of RSV vaccination is to reduce the risk of severe disease if you do become infected with RSV. This should also result in fewer hospitalisations, admissions to intensive care units and deaths. The spread of RSV-related disease needs to be prevented in care facilities too.



Which underlying health conditions markedly increase the risk of falling seriously ill with RSV?

In severe forms of the following underlying health conditions, there may be an increased risk of severe disease caused by RSV:

- chronic respiratory diseases,
- chronic cardiovascular diseases,
- chronic kidney diseases,
- chronic neurological disorders,
- diabetes mellitus,
- malignant diseases of the haematopoietic system, and
- congenital or acquired immune deficiencies.



When should the RSV vaccine be administered?

The recommendation is to have the RSV vaccination **once, if possible before the RSV season**. RSV vaccination **in late summer or autumn** is advisable for optimum protection. It is not yet known exactly how long vaccination protection lasts and whether booster jabs will be recommended in future.



Good to know

The RSV jab can be administered at the same time as the flu jab.



Is the RSV vaccine safe?

The RSV vaccine is well tolerated, effective and safe.

Minor reactions are possible, such as reddening or pain at the injection site. Severe side effects are rare. The tolerability, efficacy and safety of the vaccine are constantly being studied.

A personal vaccine recommendation in a few clicks:



Further information:



Produced in collaboration with the Robert Koch Institute. Further information on RSV and how you can protect yourself can be found at

www.infektionsschutz.de, www.impfen-info.de or at www.rki.de/rsv.