

What to Know About RSV Vaccines for Adults 50+

CVEEP
Fighting Infectious
Respiratory Disease

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that usually causes cold-like symptoms but can lead to serious illness among infants, some young children, and adults 50 years and older.¹ In the United States, RSV results in thousands of hospitalizations and deaths annually among older adults.²

Vaccines are available to help protect against RSV and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination for people who are at increased risk for severe RSV.

I'm over the age of 50. Do I need an RSV vaccine?

- ➔ **For adults 75 years of age and older**, “routine” vaccination is recommended, meaning all individuals in this age group should receive an RSV vaccine.
- ➔ **For adults 50–74 years of age**, a “risk-based” approach to vaccination is recommended. This means vaccination is recommended for those with certain chronic health conditions.

What steps should I take to get vaccinated?

- ✓ Adults who are eligible can get an RSV vaccine at any time. Vaccination is the best way to help protect yourself from serious RSV infection.³
- ✓ If you are aged 50–74 with a risk condition, qualified vaccinators, like pharmacists, nurse practitioners, and other providers, may determine your eligibility for an RSV vaccine based on a clinical assessment, even in the absence of medical documentation of a risk condition.⁴ According to the CDC, self-reporting a risk condition is sufficient evidence, and vaccinators should not deny RSV vaccination due to a lack of documentation.

If you are between 50–74 years of age and have any of the following conditions that may put you at greater risk for severe RSV disease, CDC recommends RSV vaccination.

- ▶ Chronic cardiovascular disease
- ▶ Chronic lung or respiratory disease
- ▶ Severe obesity (BMI ≥40kg /m²)
- ▶ Chronic hematologic conditions, including sickle cell disease
- ▶ Neurologic or neuromuscular conditions causing impaired airway clearance or respiratory muscle weakness
- ▶ Diabetes complicated by chronic kidney disease, neuropathy, retinopathy, or other end-organ damage, or requiring treatment with insulin or SGLT2 inhibitors
- ▶ End-stage renal disease or dependence on hemodialysis or other renal replacement therapy
- ▶ Residence in a nursing home
- ▶ Chronic liver disease
- ▶ Moderate or severe immune compromise
- ▶ Other chronic medical conditions or risk factors that a health care provider determines would increase the risk for severe disease due to viral respiratory infection

If you have questions about RSV or whether RSV vaccination is recommended for you, please talk to a healthcare provider.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/index.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7240a1.htm>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/hcp/older-adults-faqs.html>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7332e1.htm>