

RSV Risk in Adults: Ages 50 and Older

CVEEP
Fighting Infectious
Respiratory Disease

Most people think of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) as a childhood illness, but the same virus can seriously affect adults, too. In fact, RSV rivals the flu in both the severity of illness and cost to older adults.

Adults ages 75 and older are at the highest risk of severe RSV illness. Adults ages 50–74 can also be vulnerable, especially if they have chronic health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease. These factors can increase the likelihood of severe RSV illness or hospitalization.

RSV vaccines are the most effective tool to prevent severe illness and protect your health, and they are available year-round. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend RSV vaccines for the following people:

50–74  **Adults ages 50–74 with chronic conditions**

75  **All adults ages 75 and older**

By the numbers

During the 2024–2025 RSV season, RSV led to:¹

 **Up to 6.5 million outpatient visits**

 **Up to 350,000 hospitalizations**

 **Up to 23,000 deaths**

The impact of RSV extends into daily life...



Among adults ages 60 and older, RSV drives **\$6.6 billion** in total costs each year, with **\$2.9 billion** in direct medical costs alone.²



Beyond the numbers, RSV can mean **lost independence, time in the hospital, and lasting health effects**—especially for those already managing chronic conditions.³

Your best protection

Vaccination is your most trusted and powerful defense against severe RSV illness. Studies show it can reduce severe cases and hospitalizations by up to 90%, helping you stay healthy, active, and independent as you age.

Talk with a health care provider about getting an RSV vaccine today.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/php/surveillance/burden-estimates.html>

² <https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/230/2/e342/7462192>

³ <https://historyofvaccines.org/blog/how-effective-rsv-vaccine-older-adults-heres-what-we-know>