

Your Questions Answered: RSV Vaccination in Adults 50+

General Questions

What risks are associated with RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that usually causes mild cold-like symptoms. But RSV can lead to severe illness in older adults. Adults 50+ – over 123 million Americans – may be at higher risk, especially those with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems, or those who live in long-term care facilities. RSV can cause serious complications, including pneumonia, and may lead to a hospital stay.

Why does RSV vaccination matter?

As older adults are at higher risk for severe RSV illness, RSV vaccination in adults 50+ is especially important. RSV vaccines help teach the immune system how to fight RSV, which can help prevent severe illness in those who do get infected.

Where can I get an RSV vaccine?

RSV vaccines are accessible at healthcare providers' offices, pharmacies, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and local health departments. To find a vaccination location near you, use [CVEEP's Vaccine Locator Tool](#).

Are RSV vaccines covered by health insurance?

Nearly all private and public health insurance plans cover recommended RSV vaccines at no cost. This includes Medicaid, Medicare, and Tricare. Adults without insurance may be able to access vaccines free of cost through patient assistance programs or state or local health departments.



For Adults 50+

Why are adults 50+ at higher risk for severe RSV illness?

Adults ages 50 and older are at increased risk for severe RSV illness due to natural changes in immune response that occur with aging. These changes can make it harder for the body to fight infection, increasing the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Vaccination can help protect older adults against severe illness from RSV.

What are the RSV vaccine recommendations for adults 50+?

A single dose of RSV vaccines is recommended for all adults age 75 and older, as well as for adults ages 50-74 who are at increased risk of severe illness from RSV (such as those with chronic heart, liver, kidney and lung disease, diabetes, obesity, or those who are residents of long-term care facilities).

When should adults 50+ get an RSV vaccine?

An RSV vaccine for adults ages 50 and older can be given at any time of year, but in the continental U.S., it is most beneficial when received in late summer or early fall, ahead of respiratory illness season. Getting vaccinated before respiratory illness season helps to ensure adults 50+ are protected before RSV begins to spread more widely. RSV season can vary around the country. If you live in Alaska, Florida, or outside the continental U.S., talk to a healthcare provider about when RSV season is expected where you live.

Protecting Across the Lifespan

RSV vaccination can help protect older adults from severe illness. Talk with a healthcare provider about whether RSV vaccination is recommended for you and visit [CVEEP.org](https://cveep.org) to learn more.