

A smiling woman with blonde hair holding a baby. The woman is looking at the camera and smiling, while the baby is looking towards the camera with a happy expression.

# RSV

**DON'T LET THEM GO**

*unprotected* 

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is the leading cause of hospitalisation for Australian babies, with many requiring intensive care.

That is about to change.

Free RSV immunisations for

pregnant women and babies

are now available, offering vital

protection for our little ones.

## About RSV

- RSV is a highly contagious and potentially serious virus that causes seasonal outbreaks, usually during the winter months.
- While RSV can be mild, with cold-like symptoms, it can lead to severe illness, including lung infections such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia.
- Babies under the age of six months are most likely to develop severe RSV and require admission to hospital.
- RSV is unpredictable, with most hospitalisations for RSV occurring in otherwise healthy newborns.
- Severe RSV in newborns is linked to ongoing respiratory issues, such as wheezing and asthma.



## RSV Protection

Free immunisations are now available in Australia to protect infants from severe RSV throughout the months when the virus is most common.

Decades of research show that these immunisations are safe and highly effective at reducing severe RSV-related illness and keeping babies out of hospital.

### Protecting Infants from Severe RSV

There are two ways to protect babies against severe RSV thanks to the National RSV Mother and Infant Protection Program.

#### Maternal RSV Vaccination

Given between 28-36 weeks of pregnancy, this vaccine allows mothers to pass protective antibodies to their baby, which last for 5-6 months after birth.

#### Infant RSV Immunisation

A single injection for babies that provides same-day protection that lasts for 5-6 months during the RSV season.

### Which One?

Either immunisation is a great option for a mother and her baby.

It's all about timing – if a mother isn't vaccinated during pregnancy, her baby can still receive the infant immunisation to protect against severe RSV in certain situations, both options may be recommended.

The most important step is to speak with a healthcare professional about RSV immunisation so babies don't go unprotected.

For more information on RSV protection visit [www.ifa.org.au/UniteAgainstRSV](http://www.ifa.org.au/UniteAgainstRSV)

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