



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Guidance for Childcares

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a viral disease that primarily affects children but can occur in people of all ages. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults. Most children have been infected with RSV by age two and usually during the winter and early spring months (November-April).

Important Considerations	Prevention of RSV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children often are infectious before symptoms appear. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Excluding children with colds or other respiratory illnesses will probably NOT decrease the likelihood of transmission. • You should exclude until the child has no fever and can tolerate normal activities. • A child does not have to have a negative RSV test to return to childcare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful and frequent hand washing! (warm water, soap, wash hands for 20 seconds) • Proper disposal of tissues used to clean the nose and respiratory secretions. • Prevent children from sharing cups and eating utensils with others. • Clean and disinfect all surfaces on a regular basis, as well as after contact with ill children. • Clean and disinfect toys on a regular basis, as well as after contact with ill children.

Follow the guidance in the [School and Childcare Exclusion List](#) for when children should be excluded and can return to childcare.

Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	Report to Public Health	Exclusion	Documentation for Return
RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)	Respiratory (droplet) route or contact with infected individuals or contaminated objects	Shed for 3-8 days for children and adults May shed for 3-4 weeks in young infants and in immunosuppressed individuals	Report outbreaks IMMEDIATELY by phone	Exclude younger children with RSV if the child has a fever or if the child is too sick to participate in activities with other children and staff.	Parent note

Contact the DHEC Health Department that is local to your area if you have additional questions.

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