

Vaccine in short for Beyfortus **against the RS virus**

What is this injection for?

This injection protects babies against respiratory syncytial virus, known as RSV. RSV can spread easily. The virus is found in the nose and throat of people who are infected. Infected people spread the virus through droplets released when sneezing, coughing and talking. Your child can take these droplets through the nose, eyes or mouth.

Children become ill from RSV more often than adults. Young babies in particular are vulnerable to serious illness from RSV.

RSV can cause your child to develop a cold, cough or fever. Sometimes your child may develop more serious symptoms, such as breathlessness or wheezing. Your child may also develop pneumonia or an ear infection.

According to the RIVM, between 1,500 to 3,000 children are admitted to hospital each year because of RSV.

This injection is not a vaccine. How does that work?

The RSV injection contains antibodies against RSV. An injection containing antibodies is called passive immunisation. This is different from vaccination. With vaccination, the body produces its own antibodies after an injection. With passive immunisation, the antibodies are already present in the injection. The body therefore does not need to produce the antibodies itself.

How does this injection work?



The RSV injection contains antibodies against RSV. This gives your child antibodies against RSV in their body. These antibodies are active for approximately six months. If your child comes into contact with RSV, these antibodies help protect them. **As a result, your child will either not become ill or will become much less ill.**

Research shows that the effectiveness of the injection is 77%. This means that, out of 100 young children who would have been admitted to hospital without this injection, only 23 children would still be admitted to hospital after receiving the injection.

When will my child receive this injection?



Your child receives this injection **once**. The National Immunisation Programme recommends that your child should receive the injection if they are under 1 year old.



Your child receives the injection in the upper leg.

Was your child born in October, November, December, January, February or March? Then your child will receive the injection within two weeks of birth.

RSV is most common during these months.

Was your child born in April, May, June, July, August or September? Then your child will receive the injection later that year, in September or October. This is shortly before the period when RSV is most prevalent.



Is your child particularly vulnerable to RSV? Consult your treating doctor about whether your child should receive a second injection.

You will receive information about the RSV injection from the RIVM, your midwife or your child healthcare centre. The RSV injection is part of the **National Immunisation Programme**, a government programme designed to protect children against infectious diseases. The RSV injection is free of charge.

What should I do if my child has not received the injection?



If your child has **missed** the appointment for the injection, make a new appointment as soon as possible.

Most important warnings



If your child has a **fever** above 38°C before receiving the injection, the RIVM advises you to make a new appointment.

If your child has a weakened immune system because of an illness or medicines, your child may still receive the injection. However, the injection may be less effective in your child. This means your child may be less well protected against RSV.



If your child has problems with blood clotting, consult the doctor whether your child may receive the injection.

Most important side effects

As with other injections, your child may experience side effects. Fewer than 1 in 100 children may experience:

- Skin rash.
- Pain, redness or swelling of the skin at the injection site.
- Fever. If your child develops a fever after the injection, the RIVM advises you to contact your general practitioner.

More information

If you have any further questions or concerns about vaccinating your child, discuss them with the child health doctor, your doctor or a pharmacist. For the official information leaflet, see [geneesmiddeleninformatiebank.nl](https://www.geneesmiddeleninformatiebank.nl). For more information, you can also visit [apotheek.nl](https://www.apotheek.nl), [thuisarts.nl](https://www.thuisarts.nl) or [rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en](https://www.rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en). To report a side effect or learn more about side effects, visit [lareb.nl/en](https://www.lareb.nl/en).