



2096 Red Arrow Trail
Madison, WI 53711
608-275-6740

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date_____.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if your child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below.

Public Health – Madison & Dane County

(608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department

(608) 328-9390

What is RSV?

RSV is a common cause of respiratory illness among individuals in all age groups. Among infants and young children, it is the most common cause of bronchitis, croup, ear infections and pneumonia.

What are the symptoms of RSV?

Symptoms of RSV infection are similar to other respiratory infections. A person with an RSV infection might cough, sneeze, and have a runny nose, fever, and decrease in appetite. Wheezing may also occur. Older children can develop bronchitis from RSV. In young children, irritability, decreased activity, and breathing difficulties may be the only symptoms of infection. Very young babies with RSV may not show any respiratory symptoms at all. Most otherwise healthy infants infected with RSV do not need to be hospitalized. Chronic lung conditions, like asthma, may be worse during an RSV infection. Many RSV infections have lots of watery nasal secretions.

How does a person get RSV?

The virus may be spread by direct contact of the eye, nose or mouth with discharges from the nose or mouth of an infected person. Indirectly, the virus can be spread on person's hands after they touch inanimate objects contaminated with droplets from the nose or mouth of an infected person. RSV can persist on environmental surfaces for many hours. Individuals with RSV have the virus in their respiratory secretions for the duration of the illness and infants may have the virus for as long as 3-4 weeks.

How long does it take to develop RSV following exposure?

The symptoms appear 2-8 days after being infected with the virus, usually within 4-6 days.

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How is RSV treated?

There is no specific treatment for RSV infection. It is not treated with antibiotics, since it is a virus. However, there are simple ways to help relieve some of the typical symptoms. Your doctor can give advice on how to make people with RSV infection more comfortable and assess whether hospitalization is needed. Children who are born prematurely or have other immune system health conditions may be prescribed a vaccine to prevent RSV. Once someone has had RSV once they CAN still get RSV again, but it is generally a more mild illness.

How long is a child with RSV excluded from childcare?

Children are excluded until 24 hours fever free.

How can I limit the spread of RSV?

Strict adherence to good hand washing methods with plenty of soap and water and the sanitary disposal of oral and nasal discharges of infected persons are effective in preventing the spread of the disease. Environmental surfaces contaminated with RSV should be cleaned with soap and water and disinfected. Avoid sharing linens and toys. Children with severe respiratory illness or fever should not attend day care until the symptoms have resolved.