

CDC warns of rise in RSV cases among young children, infants

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Doctors are seeing a spike in severe cases of respiratory syncytial virus

(RSV) among young children in Florida and Georgia, U.S. health officials warned Tuesday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent an [advisory](#) to [doctors](#), noting that regional increases usually predict the beginning of RSV season, "with increased RSV activity spreading north and west over the following 2–3 months."

RSV infections can be quite serious in [young children](#), leading to as many as 300 deaths in those under 5 each year, according to the CDC. About 2 million doctor visits and 80,000 hospitalizations are also attributed to RSV in young kids.

RSV-related hospitalizations in Georgia rose from 2 in 100,000 children ages 4 and younger to 7 per 100,000 between Aug. 5 and Aug. 19, according to the CDC. Most of these hospitalizations were in infants.

A new RSV shot called Beyfortus (nirsevimab) has been [approved](#) to help prevent infection in babies and at-risk toddlers. The monoclonal antibody is intended for infants under the age of 8 months. At-risk children can get a second shot up to about a year and a half old.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has also [approved](#) an RSV vaccine for pregnant women, meant to protect their newborns during the first six months of life.

More information: The National Library of Medicine has more on [RSV](#).

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