



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES CANUTILLO A Premier District

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Canutillo ISD values the health, safety, and welfare of our students, faculty and staff. The school nurse has observed an increase in students diagnosed with Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) as well as students being sent to the nurse's office with fever, runny nose and cough. Please read this information carefully and discuss it with your children so they can learn how to protect themselves from illness while at school.

What is RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus. It is also the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lungs) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs) in children younger than 1 year of age. Cases of RSV typically begin to increase in September and peak in December or January.

What are the signs and symptoms of RSV?

RSV usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults. Symptoms usually appear in stages and not all at once and include the following:

- ✓ *Fever*
- ✓ *Runny nose*
- ✓ *Decrease in appetite*
- ✓ *Coughing*
- ✓ *Sneezing*
- ✓ *Wheezing*
- ✓ *In very young infants, symptoms may be: irritability, decreased activity and breathing difficulties.*



What is the treatment for RSV?

Most RSV infections go away on their own in 1 or 2 weeks. RSV management is directed at reducing fever, pain, and providing enough fluids to prevent dehydration.

Healthy adults and infants infected with RSV do not usually need to be hospitalized. But older adults and infants younger than 6 months of age with RSV may be hospitalized if they are having trouble breathing or become dehydrated.

Is there a vaccine for RSV?

Currently, there are no vaccine to prevent an RSV infection.

How is RSV transmitted?

RSV can spread when:

1. An infected person coughs or sneezes.
2. You get the virus droplets from a cough or sneeze in your eyes, nose or mouth.
3. You have direct contact with the virus, like kissing the face of a child with RSV.
4. You touch a surface that has the virus on it, like a doorknob, and then touch your face before washing your hands.

How can I protect myself and my family?

Please follow these steps to help prevent the spread of RSV:

- ✓ Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your upper shirt sleeve, not your hands.
- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- ✓ Avoid close contact, such as kissing, shaking hands and sharing cups and utensils, with others.
- ✓ Clean frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and mobile devices.

Where can I get more information about RSV?

For more information, please visit the:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/index.html>
- Texas Department of State Health Services:
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/Respiratory-Syncytial-Virus.aspx>

What is the school exclusion criteria for children diagnosed with RSV?

Children with a fever should be kept out of school or childcare until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications as outlined in the Texas Administrative Code Rule 97.7 for schools.

For further questions, please contact:

Dr. Maria Fuentes (Public Health Emergency Manager) at mfuentes@canutillo-isd.org

Nurse Loretta Berumen (District Nurse) at lberumen@canutillo-isd.org

We want to thank you for your continuous cooperation and helping us have a safe and successful 2022-2023 school year to all our CISD Community.