Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms but can cause more serious respiratory illness for infants and older adults, resulting in hospitalization and death in the most severe cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 60,000-160,000 hospitalizations and 6,000-10,000 deaths from RSV occur among older adults in the United States each year.

RSV infections generally occur during fall, winter, and spring months in North America. However, the timing and severity of RSV circulation in a given community has varied in recent years due to disruptions in RSV circulation associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as demonstrated by the severe RSV season during 2022-23 (Figure 1).

2023 will be the first respiratory season that hospitalized cases of RSV are reportable statewide. Cases should be reported here.

In May 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first RSV vaccines in the United States for prevention of lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) in adults aged ≥60 years with full FDA approval. CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends a single, one-time dose of RSV vaccine for adults 60 years and older utilizing shared clinical decision-making:

- RSV vaccination should be focused on those who are most likely to benefit from vaccination given their increased risk of severe RSV disease due to underlying medical conditions or other factors (Ex: lung or cardiovascular disease, diabetes, advanced age, nursing home resident, moderate or severe immunocompromise).
- Side effects such as pain, redness, and swelling where the shot is given, fatigue, fever, headache, nausea, diarrhea, and muscle or joint pain are possible after RSV vaccination. These side effects are usually mild.
- RSV vaccines are contraindicated for people with a history of severe allergic reaction, such as anaphylaxis, to any component of the vaccine. RSV vaccination should be delayed for people experiencing moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever as a precaution.
- RSV vaccines are available in the community at pharmacies or through a provider’s office. El Paso County Public Health Immunization Clinic has a limited amount of the RSV vaccine for those age 60 and older. Call 719-578-3199, option 5 to inquire or schedule an appointment.

Reportable diseases and conditions:

1. Animal Bites – 3 pediatric, 4 adult; 1 adult recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
2. Campylobacteriosis – adults
3. Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) – adults
4. Cryptosporidiosis – adults
5. Giardiasis – 1 pediatric, 1 adult
6. Hospitalized COVID-19 – adults
7. Hospitalized Influenza – 2 pediatric, 7 adult
8. Malaria – adult
9. Pertussis – adults
10. RSV in a childcare
11. Salmonellosis – 2 pediatric, 1 adult
12. Strep Pneumo Invasive – adults
13. Varicella (Chicken Pox) – pediatric
14. Scabies in a LTCF
15. In a child

Additional reports:

- Animals positive for rabies 2023 Year to Date: 2 (bats)
- Hospitalized Influenza since October 1, 2023: 11 Total (9 Influenza A, 2 Unsubtyped)
- 9 Communicable Disease Outbreaks identified
- 9 COVID-19” (2 in schools, 1 in a healthcare setting)
- 2 Hand Foot & Mouth Disease in children
- 1 Scabies in a LTGF
- 1 Influenza in a school
- 1 GI illness in a childcare

For a list of reportable diseases and conditions and instructions on how to report, follow this link.

Figure 1: Rate of RSV-associated Hospitalization in the U.S. Among Persons 65 and Older, January 2023 – Present

Questions? Please Contact:
El Paso County Public Health CD/TB Program
Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(719) 578-3220, afterhours: (719) 235-2278
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
(303) 692-2700; after-hours emergency: (303) 370-9395
www.elpasocountyhealth.org
Reportable Diseases and Conditions List

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"COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCs are not included in this number

El Paso County Public Health
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Source: RSV-NET Interactive Dashboard | CDC