



**Marion County**  
OREGON

Health & Human Services

**ALERT**

**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO CLINIC PROVIDERS**

To: Health Care Providers and Health Care Systems

Fax number:

From: Marion County Health & Human Services

Fax number: (503) 566-2920

Date: **11/14/22**

Regarding: RSV

Phone number for follow-up: (503) 588-5621

View this message with clickable links at: [www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PH/Epid/Pages/Alerts.aspx](http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PH/Epid/Pages/Alerts.aspx)

**On October 29, Oregon met RSV season onset criteria and RSV activity is increasing rapidly. Pediatric hospital capacity is currently limited in Oregon and is expected to be heavily strained based on forecasted levels of RSV activity ahead.**

RSV can cause severe disease in both young children and the elderly. Children under 2 years, and especially under 6 months, as well as children with underlying medical issues are at increased risk for hospitalization. Adults 65 years and older as well as those with chronic heart and lung disease and those with weakened immune systems are at increased risk for hospitalization.

RSV is transmitted through respiratory droplets, direct contact and by touching contaminated surfaces. The risk of RSV is reduced by respiratory hygiene (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes), masking, hand hygiene and disinfection of high-touch surfaces. **Oregon Health Authority encourages all individuals at increased risk of severe disease and their caregivers to take steps to prevent RSV infection this respiratory season. Some effective prevention measures people can take include:**

- Washing hands thoroughly and frequently
- Keeping high-touch surface areas clean and regularly disinfected
- Keeping children out of school and daycare when they are sick
- Wearing a mask indoors in public places throughout the RSV season
- You can provide additional protection to children under 2 years (who are unable to mask) – in particular those under 6 months – by asking visitors to wear a mask

**Health care providers and systems should take steps now to help address the surge in pediatric respiratory virus activity and optimize hospital capacity:**

- Hospitals should maximize pediatric staffing, bed capacity and coordination across the state such as through the Regional Resource Hospital structure
- Outpatient providers and urgent care settings should maximize outpatient care, consider expanding hours of operation, and screen patients to prevent emergency department overload from patients not requiring hospitalization
- Provide information to families about the signs of respiratory distress among young children that may require hospitalization

**Additional information regarding RSV activity in Oregon can be found in [Oregon's RSV Report](#) which is updated every Wednesday.**