

NEWSLETTER

PARK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Elevating Wellness in Park County

TOP NEWS

- Chicken pox on the rise in Colorado
- RSV continues to be a concern for infants and older people
- COVID-19 cases increasing in Colorado, tests and vaccines available



CHICKENPOX ON THE RISE

There has been a recent rise in cases of varicella also known as CHICKENPOX in Colorado. Varicella is a highly contagious febrile rash illness caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Varicella can occur in vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or unvaccinated people.

Breakthrough cases are less frequent and often milder, but they can be severe in adults, those who are pregnant, infants, adolescents, or persons of any age who are immunocompromised. The average incubation period is typically 14 to 16 days.

The rash usually appears first on the chest, back and face then spreads over the entire body.

After primary infection the virus remains latent in the body and can reactivate later in life causing shingles. Guidance on vaccination can be found on CDC's website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/chickenpox/index.html>

PREVENTING RSV

Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious in infants and older adults with underlying medical conditions. **Infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV and need hospitalization.** Vaccines are available to protect older adults from severe RSV. Monoclonal antibody products are available to protect infants and young children from severe RSV. Please contact your pediatrician for more details on monoclonal antibody products for infants. RSV vaccine for adults over 60 requires shared clinical decision making with a provider to ensure individuals qualify medically to receive the vaccine as age alone does not qualify an individual.

COVID-19 CASES RISING

COVID-19 hospitalizations have risen in Colorado by 11% as of mid-November. Remember to get your vaccination for COVID-19 before the holidays! Call 719-836-4161 option 3 for availability.

COVID-19 testing kits are available at the Park County Public Health office in Bailey and Fairplay, as well as through the government at <https://www.covid.gov/tests>.

RESOURCES

- You can contact us at 719-836-4161 option 3 for more information regarding adult RSV vaccinations.
- Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>
- Free COVID-19 tests are available here: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Park County Public Health Agency at 719-836-4162 to check on Flu, COVID and RSV vaccine availability.



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