



**DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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From: DCHHS Acute Communicable Disease Epidemiology

To: Dallas County Medical Providers

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HEALTH ADVISORY: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

At least one area hospital in Dallas County is reporting a large increase in identifications of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), which is an infection that presents with nonspecific symptoms consistent with the common cold—frequently runny nose, decreased appetite, fever, sneezing, coughing, and/or wheezing. The increase is reflective of interseasonal trends in the southern United States that were recently alerted by the CDC, and which may correlate with increased isolation from this common illness, due to COVID restrictions.

RSV is transmitted through respiratory droplets or secondarily from contact with surfaces that have been contaminated with ejecta from coughs, sneezes, or other mucosal discharges. In most, the illness tends to be relatively mild and transient, but it may be life-threatening in infants, elderly adults, and those with compromised immune systems who may develop pneumonia and require hospitalization. Health providers should consider this illness in their differential for patients presenting with respiratory illness and preferably sample older adults by PCR. Dallas County Health and Human Services is interested in monitoring incidence of COVID-19 and RSV coinfection or evidence of large continuous outbreaks of RSV. Infection Preventionists should begin reporting this condition via a weekly line list, if group expression or sustained elevation is suspected or witnessed by your hospital's lab service.

Prevention education should be communicated to at-risk groups, which includes routine hand hygiene with soap and water, cough etiquette, and avoiding close contact with symptomatic persons. High touch surfaces in common areas should be routinely disinfected. Healthcare providers, childcare personnel, or elder-care workers with these symptoms should also be encouraged to avoid work while ill.