RSV: A Hidden Annual Epidemic

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common cause of serious respiratory illness in adults age 65 years and older but is largely unrecognized even in the medical community.

**Annual Burden:** US adults age 65 years and older

- 14,000 deaths
- 177,000 hospitalizations

**Transmission:**

Circulates seasonally along with many winter respiratory viruses

Most infections occur between November and May in the US

**Spreads Easily, Reinfection Common**

2 in 3 adults will get reinfected within 8 months

**Symptoms:**

Often misdiagnosed as flu...

- Nasal congestion and runny nose
- Cough
- Shortness of breath and wheezing
- Fever

**Who Is At Risk**

65+

Years Old

Other Conditions

The worst outcomes (hospitalization, death) are in older adults and those with high-risk conditions (e.g., heart or lung disease)

To learn more, visit www.nfid.org/rsv