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Nov. 21, 2022

To: I/DD community members, Tribal partners and ODDS staff  
From: Anna S. Lansky, Interim Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)  
Subject: Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) awareness

The health and safety of all in Oregon's intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) system is our highest concern.

Oregon [Governor Kate Brown has declared a public health emergency](#) due to a surge in child cases and hospitalization from respiratory viruses. This includes the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

To reduce the spread of RSV, ODDS encourages you to keep using the masking and preventative measures we adapted during the pandemic.

This message will help you understand RSV and how to protect others and yourself from the virus.

### **About RSV**

- RSV is a seasonal respiratory illness.
- There is no vaccine.
- The flu and COVID-19 vaccines do not prevent RSV.
- Those at highest risk of severe disease
  - Premature infants
  - Children under 2
  - Young children with congenital heart or chronic lung disease
  - Children with neuromuscular disorders
  - Adults with compromised immune systems
  - Older adults
- Symptoms

- Cold-like symptoms
- Runny nose
- Coughing and wheezing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Decrease in appetite
- In young infants: irritability, decreased activity and breathing difficulties
- How to protect yourself and those in your family and workplace
  - Wear masks.
  - Cover your coughs and sneezes.
  - Wash your hands often, especially before touching your face.
  - Disinfect common areas that are touched often.
  - Stay away from others when you are sick.
- Most RSV infections go away on their own in a week or two.

### **If someone is sick**

- If you or your child has symptoms or if you have concerns, please consult your healthcare provider. For health care resources, call 211.
- Please direct questions about RSV to your health care provider.

### **Resources**

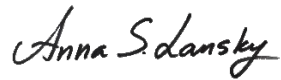
- [Oregon Health Authority RSV website](#)
  - [OHA email alerts and weekly RSV reports](#)
  - Flyer to prevent RSV infection
    - [English](#), [Spanish](#), [bilingual English/Spanish](#)
  - [Oregon Health News updates](#)
    - [“Children and common respiratory infections; COVID-19, flu, RSV and the common cold”](#)
- [Oregon Health & Science University article and FAQs](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention RSV website](#)

### **Partners who need more masks and gloves**

- Case management entities (CMEs) and providers, [contact the Oregon Home Care Commission](#) at [OHCC.CustomerRelations@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:OHCC.CustomerRelations@dhsoha.state.or.us).
- Personal support workers, contact OHCC or your CME.

Thank you for doing what you can to protect those we serve in the I/DD community from RSV and other infections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna S. Lansky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anna S. Lansky  
Interim Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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