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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

2022

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, Walk-in Clinics, Long Term Care Facilities, St. Clair County Schools and Daycares, OB/GYN, Pulmonology

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HEALTH ADVISORY: RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

Surveillance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has shown that both RSV- associated emergency room visits and detection of RSV are at an increase. Health care providers and public health professionals should be aware of increased respiratory illnesses including RSV. Some regions are nearing seasonal peak levels. Michigan's RSV levels continue to remain high, the **southeast region was reporting very high as of the week ending in 11/05/2022.**

Steps to prevent the spread of RSV include:

- Cover sneezes and coughs
- Frequent handwashing
- Avoiding close contact with those who are sick
- Cleaning and disinfecting common surfaces such as door knobs, light switches, and electronic devices
- Staying home when you feel ill or keeping sick children home
- Avoiding touching your face with unclean hands

For further information on prevention of RSV visit CDC's webpage:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html>

Printable flyers discussing RSV prevention can be located here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/infographic.html/index.html>

Some groups are at higher risk for becoming infected with RSV including:

- Premature infants
- Infants <6 months of age
- Children with weakened immune systems
- Those under 2 years of age with chronic lung and heart conditions
- Children with neuromuscular disorders.

Adults are also at risk if they have weakened immune systems, chronic lung or heart conditions, and are 65+.

Printable fact sheets for high risk clients can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/downloads/RSV-in-Infants-and-Young-Children.pdf> & <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/factsheet-older-adults.pdf>.