



Communicable Disease Case Reporting and Investigation Protocol **RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)-ASSOCIATED PEDIATRIC MORTALITY**

I. IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF CASES

- A. Clinical Description:** A RSV-associated death is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness diagnosed as RSV. Symptoms of RSV vary but commonly include runny nose, cough, sore throat, fever, a decrease in appetite, and wheezing. There should be no period of complete recovery between the illness and death. RSV-associated deaths in all persons aged < 18 years should be reported.
- B. Laboratory Criteria:**
Confirmatory laboratory evidence of RSV type A, B, or undifferentiated by at least one of the following:
- Isolation of respiratory syncytial virus by tissue cell culture
 - Detection of respiratory syncytial virus nucleic acid by reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) or other nucleic acid detection assay
 - Detection of respiratory syncytial virus antigen by immunofluorescent antibody staining (direct or indirect)
 - Detection of respiratory syncytial virus antigens by immunochromatographic or similar rapid laboratory test
 - Detection of respiratory syncytial virus antigens from autopsy specimens by immunohistochemical (IHC) staining
- C. Wisconsin Surveillance Case Definition:**
A confirmed case is a death of a person < 18 years as a result of RSV compatible illness and with confirmatory laboratory evidence for RSV.

II. REPORTING

- A. Wisconsin Disease Surveillance Category II — Methods for Reporting:** This disease shall be reported to the patient's local health officer or to the local health officer's designee within 72 hours of recognition of a case or suspected case, per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 145.04\(3\)\(b\)](#). Report electronically through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), or mail or fax a completed [Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report](#) (form [F-44151](#)) to the address on the form.
- B. Responsibility for Reporting:** According to Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 145.04\(1\)](#), persons licensed under Wis. Stat. ch. [441](#) or [448](#), laboratories, health care facilities, teachers, principals, or nurses serving a school or day care center, and any person who knows or suspects that a person has a communicable disease identified in [Appendix A](#).
- C. Clinical Criteria for Reporting:** Death from a clinically compatible illness.
- D. Laboratory Criteria for Reporting:** Laboratory identification of RSV infection.

III. CASE INVESTIGATION

- A. Responsibility for case investigation:** It is the responsibility of the local health department to investigate or arrange for investigation of suspected or confirmed cases as soon as is reasonably possible. A case investigation may include information collected by phone, in person, in writing, or through review of medical records or communicable disease report forms, as necessary and appropriate.
- B. Required Documentation:**
1. Complete the WEDSS disease incident investigation report, including appropriate, disease-specific tabs.
 2. Upon completion of investigation, set WEDSS disease incident process status to "Sent to State."

IV. PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. In accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 145.05](#), local public health agencies should follow the methods of control recommended in the current editions of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics' *Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*, unless otherwise specified by the state epidemiologist.

V. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. Local health departments and tribal health agencies: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/index.htm>
- B. Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Communicable Diseases Epidemiology Section: 608-267-9003
- C. Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene: 800-862-1013

VI. RELATED REFERENCES

- A. Heymann DL, ed. *Common Cold and Other Acute Viral Diseases*. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 21st ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2022: 117-122.
- B. Kimberlin DW, ed. *Respiratory Syncytial Virus*. In: *Red Book: 2021-2024 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 32nd ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2021: 628-636.
- C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention RSV website: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/>