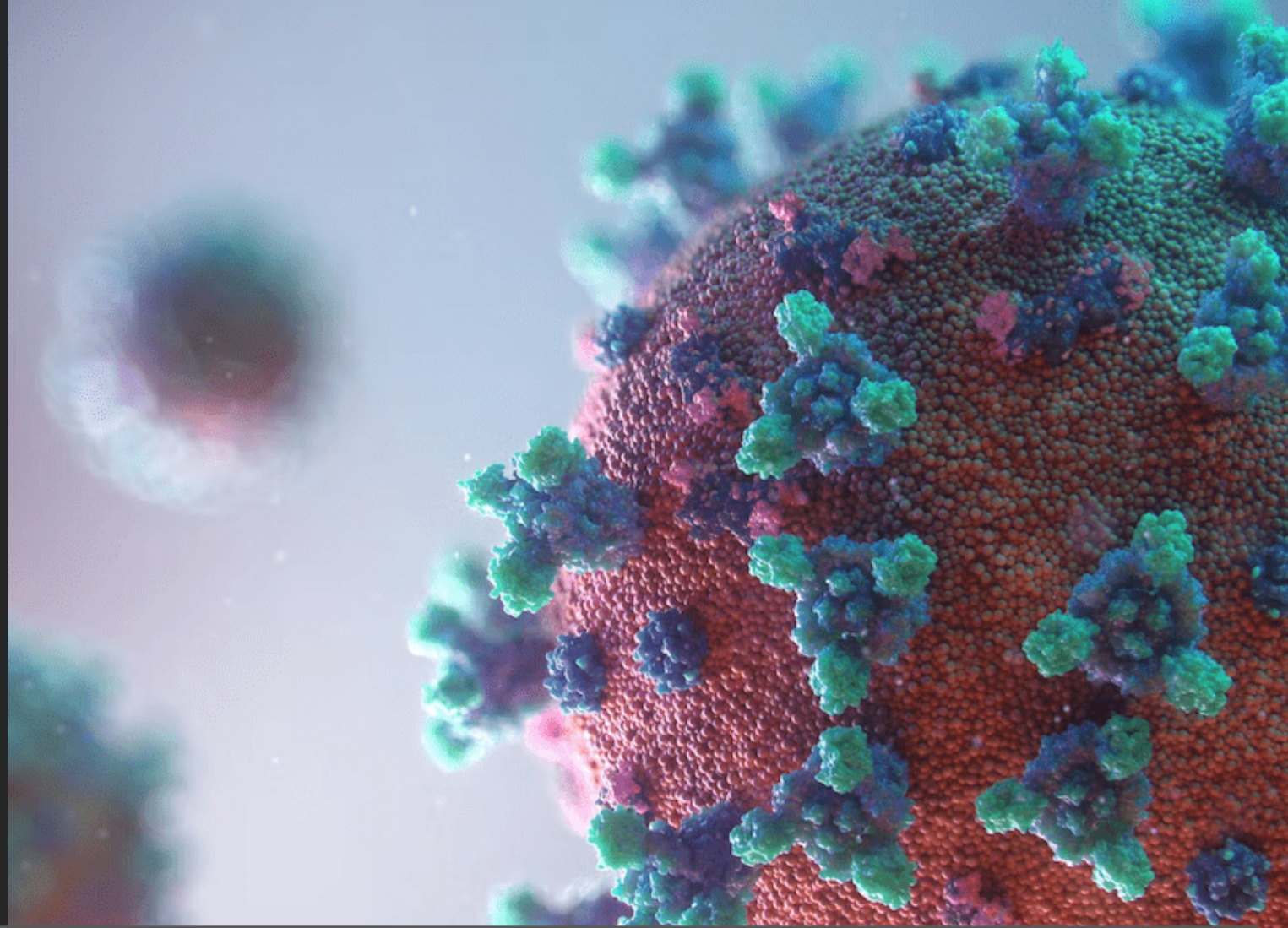


# Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Clinical illness, risk factors,  
treatment and prevention

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024



**Chris Blyth**

[christopher.blyth@uwa.edu.au](mailto:christopher.blyth@uwa.edu.au)

 @ChrisBlyth74



**WESFARMERS**  
CENTRE OF VACCINES  
& INFECTIOUS DISEASES



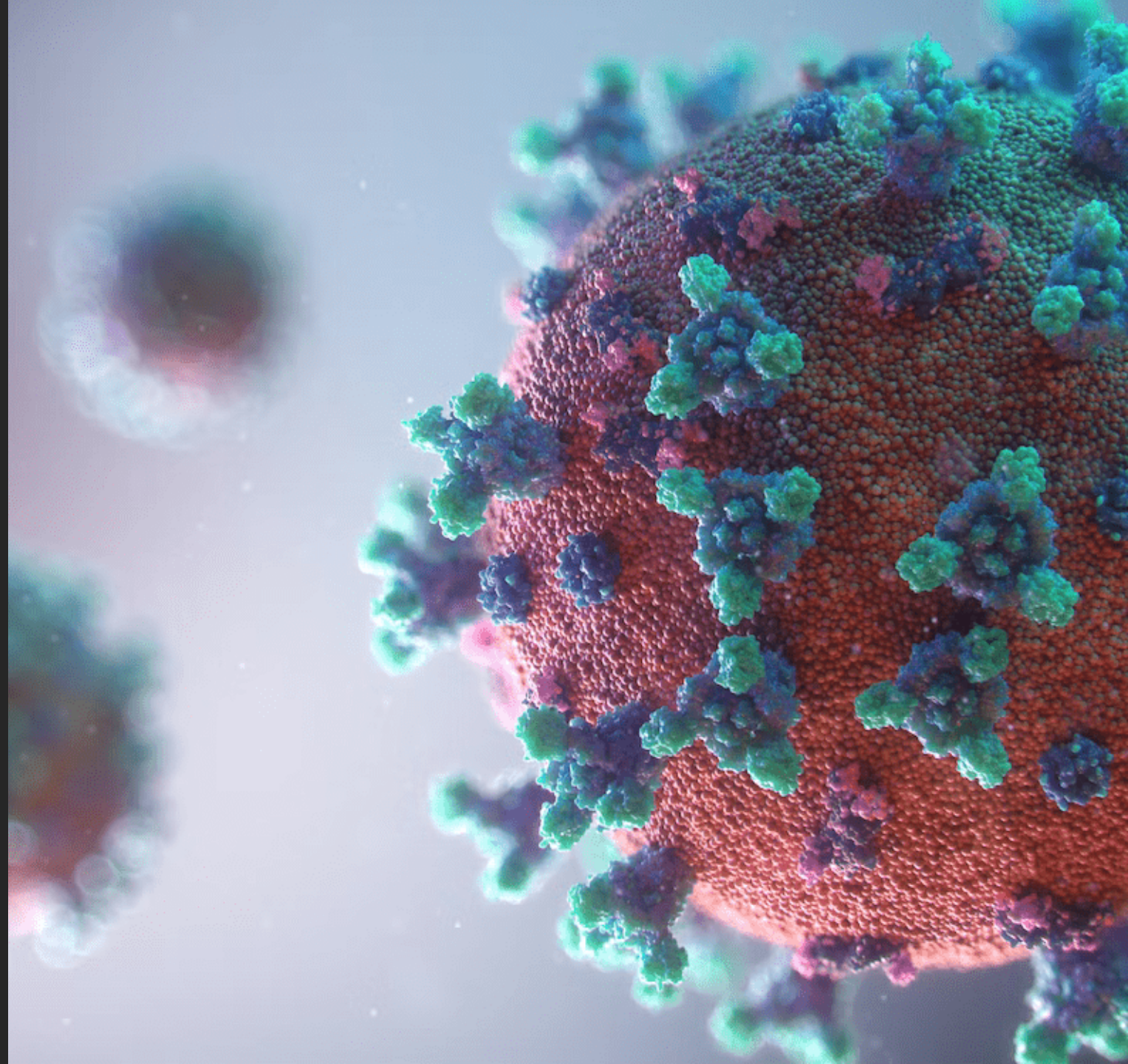




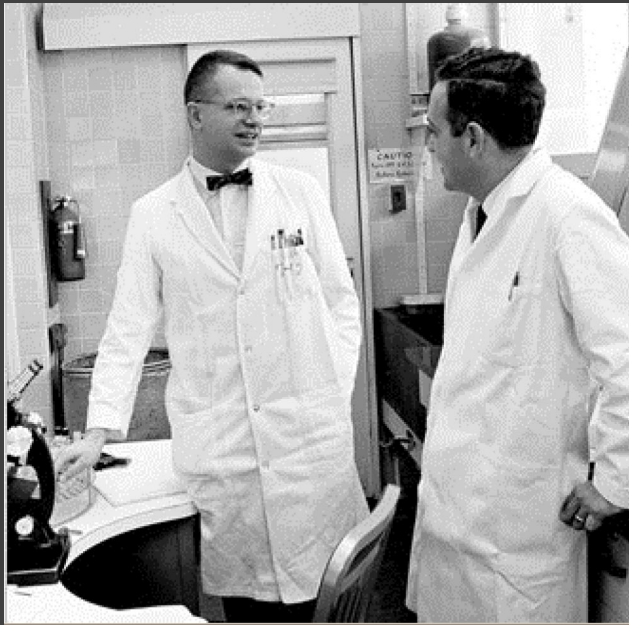


## Summary:

Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Predictable or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable



# The virus



RECOVERY FROM INFANTS WITH RESPIRATORY ILLNESS  
OF A VIRUS RELATED TO CHIMPANZEE  
CORYZA AGENT (CCA)

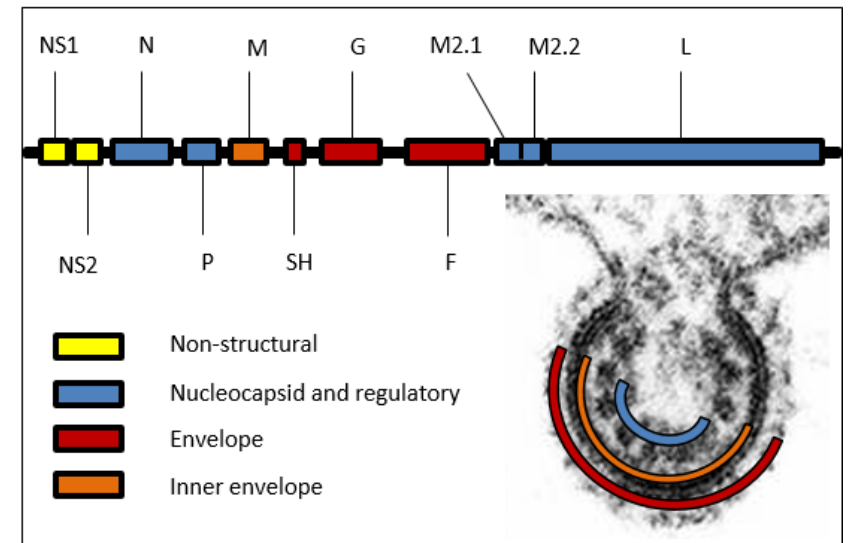
II. EPIDEMIOLOGIC ASPECTS OF INFECTION IN INFANTS  
AND YOUNG CHILDREN :

By

ROBERT CHANOCK \* AND LAURENCE FINBERG \*

(Received for publication July 22, 1957)

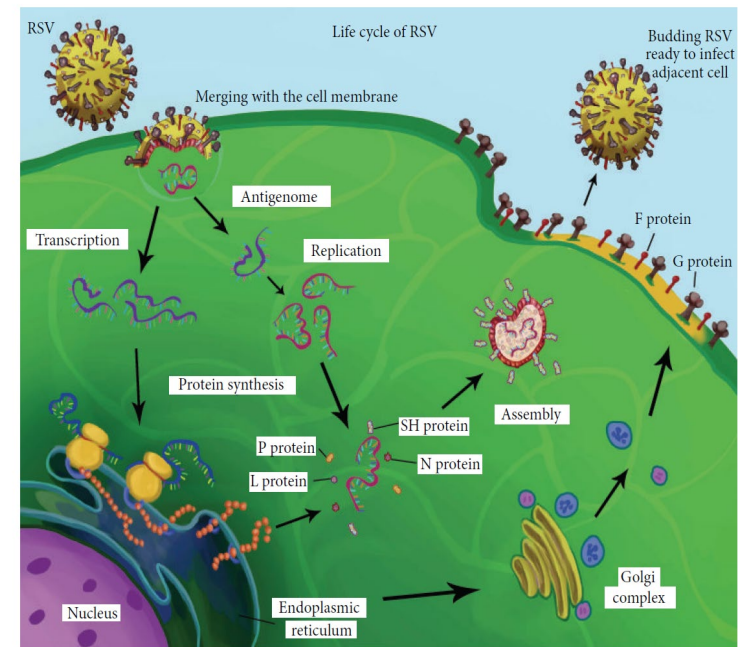
- Species: Paramyxovirus
- Genus: Pneumovirus
- Two strains: A and B
- Lipid envelope
- Non segmented, negative single stranded linear RNA genome
- G and F (fusion) glycoproteins are essential for virulence





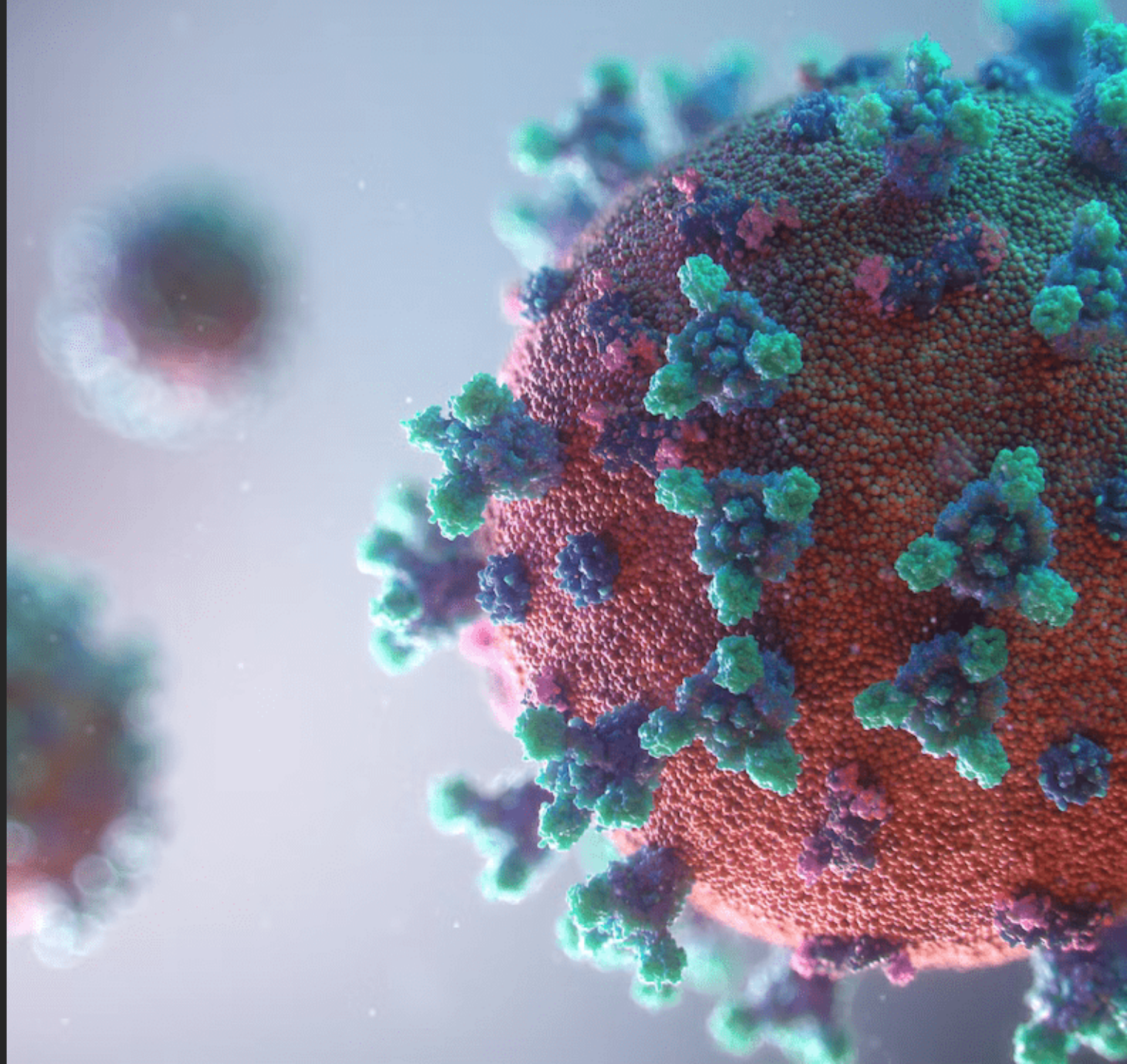
# The virus

- G protein = targets ciliated cells of the airways facilitating adherence
- F protein = initiates viral penetration and promotes cell to cell spread
- Both F & G are key in eliciting a neutralizing antibody response
- Humoral and cytotoxic T cell-mediated immunity is vital

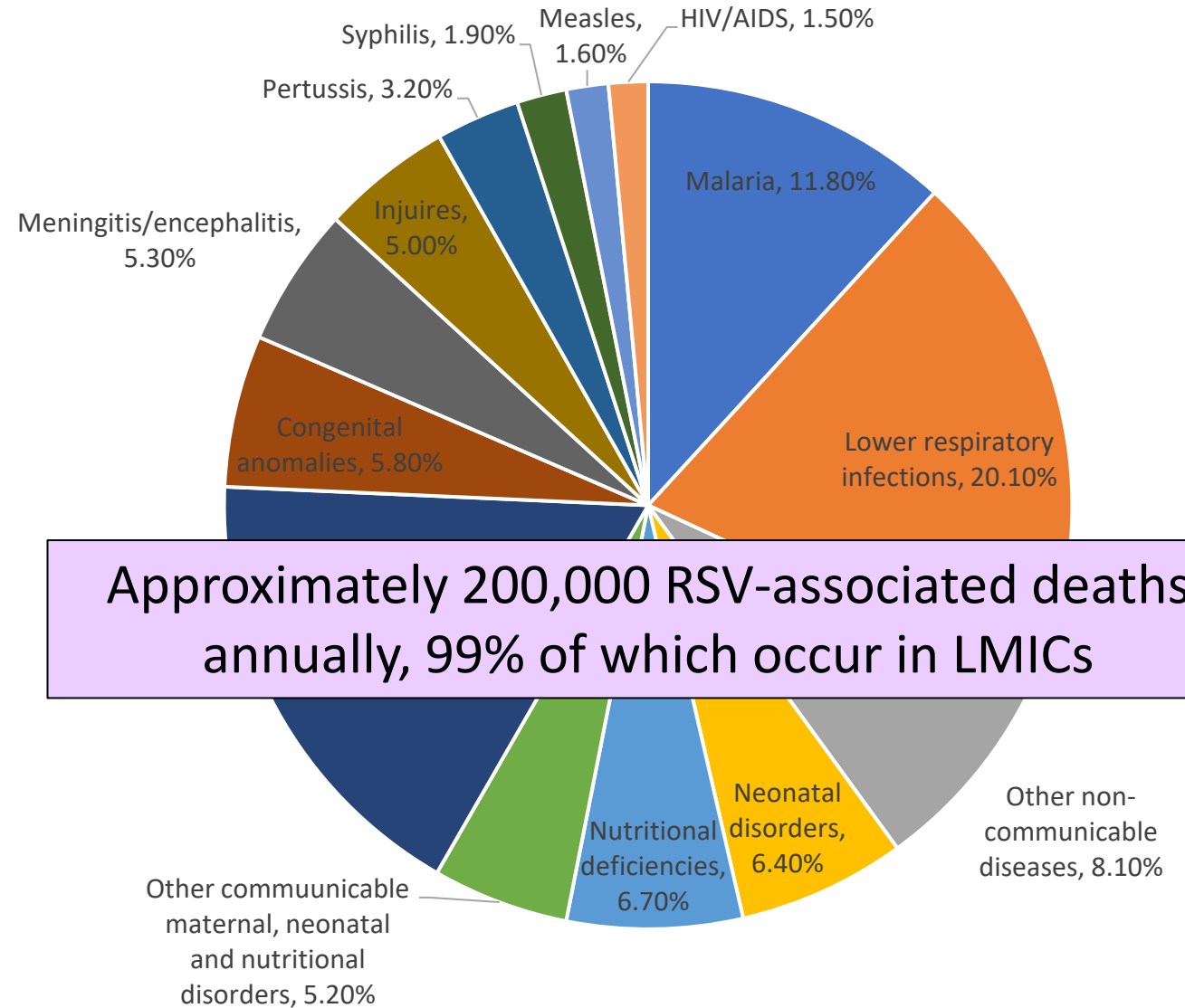


## Summary:

Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Predictable or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable



# Mild or Severe, Young or Old





# Mild or Severe, Young or Old

## Prevalence of respiratory viruses in community-acquired pneumonia in children: a systematic review and meta-analysis



Mitchell T G Pratt, Tasnim Abdalla, Peter C Richmond, Hannah C Moore, Thomas L Snelling, Christopher C Blyth\*, Mejbah U Bhuiyan\*

### Summary

**Background** Respiratory viruses are increasingly detected and prevalence estimates vary substantially. We aimed to systematically review community-acquired pneumonia associated with community-acquired pneumonia.

**Methods** We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of respiratory viruses detected by any diagnostic method in children with community-acquired pneumonia. We searched MEDLINE, PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, and Cochrane for relevant published articles and reports published between 1980 and 2020. We included studies published in English and without language restrictions for relevant published articles and reports published between 1980 and 2020. We included studies published in English and without language restrictions for relevant published articles and reports published between 1980 and 2020. We included studies published in English and without language restrictions for relevant published articles and reports published between 1980 and 2020.

**Findings** We identified 186 eligible articles that represented community-acquired pneumonia. One or more respiratory viruses were detected in 100% of patients with a diagnosis of community-acquired pneumonia. The most commonly detected viruses were respiratory syncytial virus (22.7%, 20.9–24.5) and rhinovirus (22.1%, 19.8–24.4). The prevalence of respiratory viruses detected in paediatric pneumonia globally, with other viruses detected in children with community-acquired pneumonia, varied by the country's national income, under-5 mortality rate, and geographical region.

**Interpretation** Respiratory viruses are frequently detected in children with community-acquired pneumonia across all ages and geographical regions, with non-significant variations in prevalence. Targeted strategies to limit antibiotic use in children with viral pneumonia are expected to have a positive impact on community-acquired pneumonia.

**Funding** None.

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	Overall		
	Number of studies	Prevalence (%)	I <sup>2</sup> (%)
Respiratory syncytial virus	150	22.7%	98.1%
Human rhinovirus	83	22.1%	98.5%
Human bocavirus	45	8.6%	98.1%
Human adenovirus (non-typed)	110	7.3%	97.0%
Human metapneumovirus	95	6.5%	96.3%
Human parainfluenza virus	58	6.6%	94.0%
Human parainfluenza virus 1	44	2.1%	88.6%
Human parainfluenza virus 2	40	1.1%	86.6%
Human parainfluenza virus 3	52	4.4%	94.4%
Human parainfluenza virus 4	20	2.0%	81.3%
Influenza (non-typed)	48	6.5%	89.9%
Influenza virus (non-typed)	61	5.5%	90.1%
Influenza virus H1N1	27	4.6%	93.9%
Influenza virus H3N2	16	4.8%	91.9%
Influenza B virus	58	1.8%	87.7%
Influenza C virus*	4	0.4%	50.8%
Human coronaviruses (non-typed)	32	3.5%	89.5%
Human coronaviruses NL63	19	1.0%	58.7%
Human coronaviruses 229E	15	1.2%	81.2%
Human coronaviruses OC43	20	2.3%	89.0%
Human coronaviruses HKU1	12	1.5%	87.7%
Enterovirus	33	3.7%	88.5%



# Mild or Severe, Young or Old

Estimated to cause:

- >10,000 hospitalisations in Australian infants
- Major contribution to winter bed block
- One in 50 babies admitted to hospital in the first year of life

	General Population Term Children	High-risk Children
Rates of hospitalization	1-2.9%	5-10%
Hospitalization Mean LOS (days)	3.4	5-7
Require ICU care	3-9%	10-50%
ICU Mean LOS (days)	3.4	4.5-7.2
Require mechanical ventilation	1.5%	17-40%

Nair et al. *Lancet* 2010.; Saravanos *Med J Aust* 2019;  
Boyce et al. *J Pediatr* 2000; Joffe et al. *Pediatrics* 1999;  
Shay et al. *JAMA* 1999; Griffin et al. *Arch Int Med* 2002;  
Bockova et al. *Pediatrics* 2002; Horn et al. *J Pediatr* 2003;  
Moler et al. *Crit Care Med* 1992;



# Mild or Severe, Young or Old

**NEWS** MEET THE PRESS POLITICS PLAN YOUR VOTE U.S. NEWS WORLD COVID BUSINESS OPINION WATCH NOW

HEALTH NEWS

## Surge in cases of RSV, a virus that can severely sicken infants, is filling hospital beds

Pediatric doctors in five states said their hospital bed capacity was strained due to a sudden influx of RSV patients.

Hospitals becoming overwhelmed by outbreak of RSV

HOSPITALS OVER

This screenshot shows the top portion of an NBC News article. The header includes the NBC News logo and navigation links. The main headline is 'Surge in cases of RSV, a virus that can severely sicken infants, is filling hospital beds'. Below the headline is a sub-headline and a short introductory paragraph. A video player is visible with a play button and the text 'Hospitals becoming overwhelmed by outbreak of RSV'. A blue banner at the bottom of the video frame says 'HOSPITALS OVER'.

THE AGE

National Victoria Coronavirus pandemic

## Respiratory virus sends more children to hospital than flu or COVID

Timna Jacks  
July 26, 2022 – 11:54am

Doctors are warning of an outbreak of a potentially serious respiratory illness that can cause pneumonia among children, and is presently responsible for more paediatric admissions to Victorian hospitals than COVID-19 or the flu.

Children are presenting to hospitals with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) at alarming rates this winter, after repeated lockdowns over the past two years contributed to waning immunity among children who were not exposed to an array of viruses, particularly those that cause flu-like symptoms.

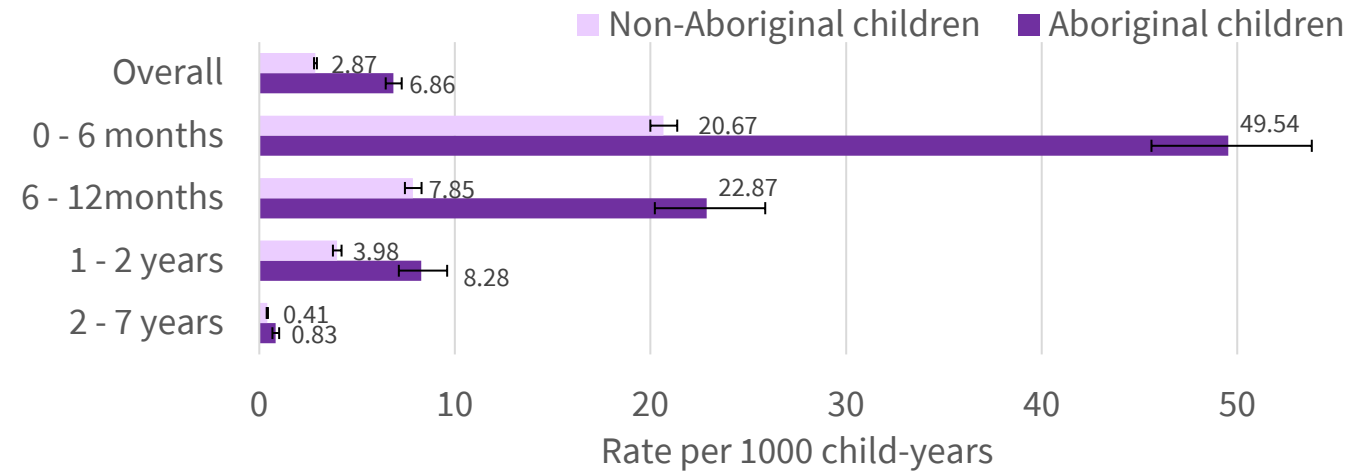
prime video

This screenshot shows an article from 'THE AGE'. The header includes the site name and a 'SUBSCRIBE' button. The article is categorized under 'National Victoria Coronavirus pandemic'. The headline is 'Respiratory virus sends more children to hospital than flu or COVID'. The author is 'Timna Jacks' and the date is 'July 26, 2022 – 11:54am'. The main text discusses a warning of a respiratory illness outbreak and notes that RSV hospitalizations are higher than COVID-19 or the flu. A photo of a child in a hospital bed is visible at the bottom. A 'prime video' logo is in the bottom right corner.



# Mild or Severe, Young or Old

## The younger you are, the greater the risk



## Children with underlying conditions at risk

- Prematurity
  - Chronic cardio-respiratory conditions
  - Chronic neurological conditions
  - Genetic conditions including Trisomy 21
- BUT: 83% of admissions are in previously healthy children**



# Mild or Severe, Young or Old

Symptoms  
develop

**5 days**

after exposure



Cough

Symptoms worsen  
over the first

**3-4 days**



Nasal Congestion/  
secretions

Symptoms  
can last

**8-15 days**



Fever



Poor appetite



Wheeze/difficulty  
breathing

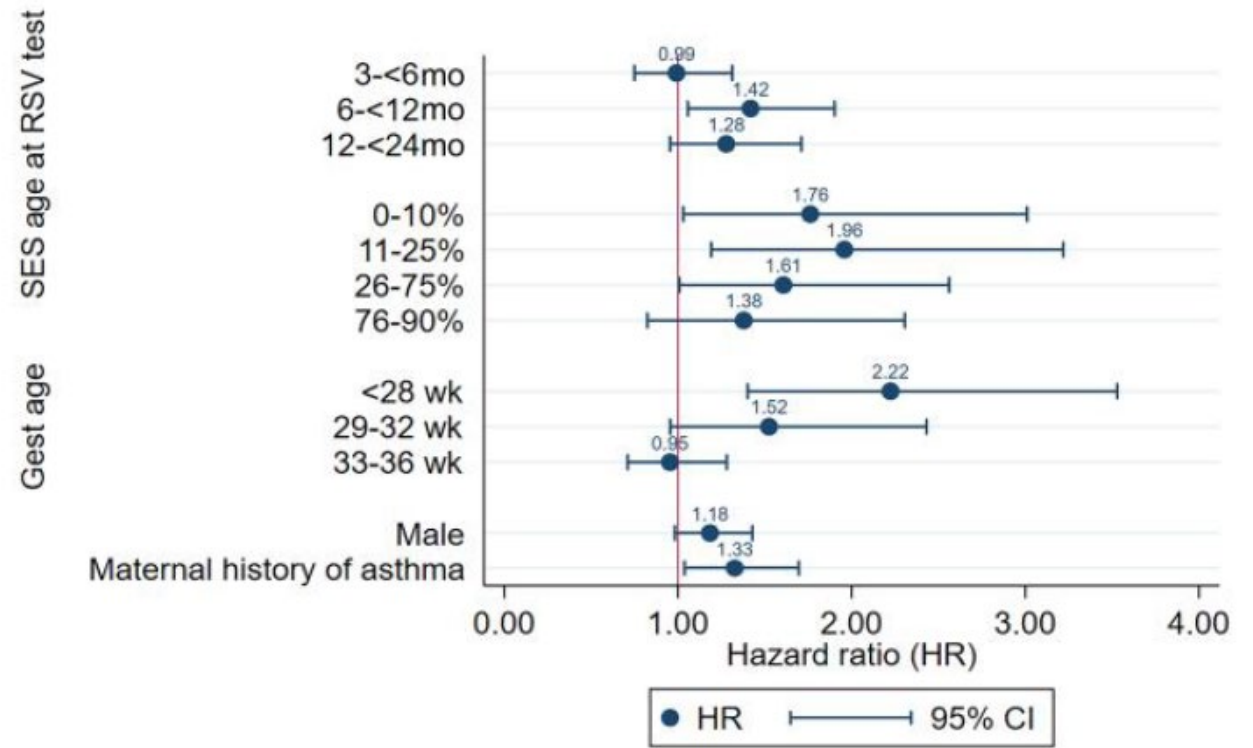


Sore Throat

Mild or Severe,  
Young or Old

RSV infection predisposes to longer term respiratory morbidity

Those born preterm and with a maternal history of asthma are at increased risk





Mild or Severe,  
Young or Old

*The* **NEW ENGLAND**  
**JOURNAL of MEDICINE**

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

APRIL 28, 2005

VOL. 352 NO. 17

Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection  
in Elderly and High-Risk Adults

Ann R. Falsey, M.D., Patricia A. Hennessey, R.N., Maria A. Formica, M.S., Christopher Cox, Ph.D.,  
and Edward E. Walsh, M.D.

ABSTRACT

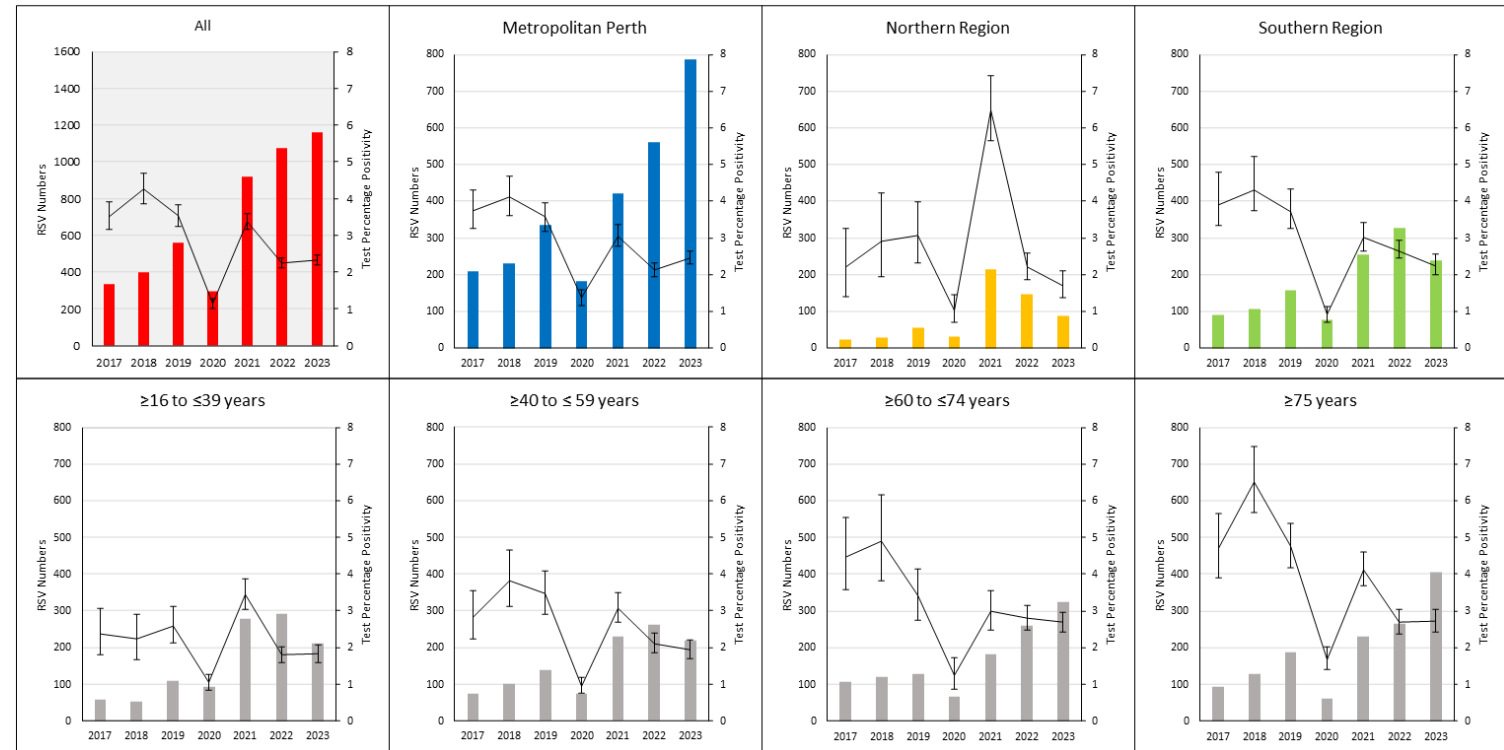
**BACKGROUND**

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is an increasingly recognized cause of illness in adults. From the Department of Medicine, Rochester General Hospital (A.R.F., P.A.H., M.A.F., C.C., E.E.W.).

RSV infection occurs annually in:  
i) 3-7% of healthy elderly  
ii) 4-10% of high-risk adults  
In hospitalised adults, RSV and influenza A resulted  
in similar LOS, ICU admission and mortality

cohorts and 142 hospitalized patients, and influenza A was diagnosed in 44 patients in  
the prospective cohorts and 154 hospitalized patients. RSV infection developed annual-

# Mild or Severe, Young or Old



The true burden of RSV disease in adults remains uncertain, because traditionally we have not tested for RSV.  
Post COVID research is shedding new light on the burden in adults



# Mild or Severe, Young or Old



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

**Vaccine: X**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jvacc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jvacc)

**Influenza vaccination in Western Australian children: Exploring the health benefits and cost savings of increased vaccine coverage in children**

Christopher C. Blyth<sup>a,b,c,d,\*</sup>, Parveen Fathima<sup>a,e</sup>, Rebecca Pavlos<sup>a</sup>, Peter Jacoby<sup>f</sup>, Olivia Pavy<sup>a</sup>, Elizabeth Geelhoed<sup>g</sup>, Peter C Richmond<sup>a,b,g,h</sup>, Paul V. Effler<sup>i</sup>, Hannah C. Moore<sup>a,j</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, Telethon Kids Institute, University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>b</sup> *School of Medicine, University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>c</sup> *Department of Infectious Diseases, Perth Children's Hospital, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>d</sup> *Department of Microbiology, PathWest Laboratory Medicine, QEII Medical Centre, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>e</sup> *School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia*  
<sup>f</sup> *Telethon Kids Institute, Perth Children's Hospital, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>g</sup> *Department of Immunology, Perth Children's Hospital, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>h</sup> *Department of General Paediatrics, Perth Children's Hospital, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>i</sup> *Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth, WA, Australia*  
<sup>j</sup> *School of Population Health, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia*

**ARTICLE INFO**

**Keywords:**  
Influenza  
Influenza vaccination  
Costs  
Child

**ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** To assess potential benefits and direct healthcare cost savings with expansion of an existing childhood influenza immunisation program, we developed a dynamic transmission model for the state of Western Australia, evaluating increasing coverage in children < 5 years and routinely immunising school-aged children.

**Methods:** A deterministic compartmental Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Recovered age-stratified transmission model was developed and calibrated using laboratory-notification and hospitalisation data. Base case vaccine coverage estimates were derived from 2019 data and tested under moderate, low and high vaccine effectiveness settings. The impact of increased coverage on the burden of influenza, influenza-associated presentations and net costs were assessed using the transmission model and estimated health utilisation costs.

**Results:** Under base case vaccine coverage and moderate vaccine effectiveness settings, 225,460 influenza cases are expected annually across all ages. Direct healthcare costs of influenza were estimated to be A\$27,600,206 per annum, dominated by hospital costs. Net cost savings of >A\$1.5 million dollars were observed for every 10% increase in vaccine coverage in children < 5 years. Additional benefits were observed by including primary school age children (5–11 years) in the funded influenza vaccination program - a reduction in cases, presentations, hospitalisations and approximately A\$4 million net costs savings were observed for every 10% increase in coverage. The further addition of older children (12–17 years) resulted in only moderate additional net cost savings figures, compared with a 5–11-year-old program alone. Net costs savings were predominantly derived by a reduction in influenza-associated hospitalisation in adults.

**Conclusions:** Any increase in influenza vaccine coverage in children < 5 years, above a base case of 50% coverage resulted in a substantive reduction in influenza cases, presentations, hospitalisations and net costs when applied to the West Australian population. However, the most impactful pediatric program, from both a disease prevention and costs perspective, would be one that increased vaccination coverage among primary-school aged children.

## Summary:

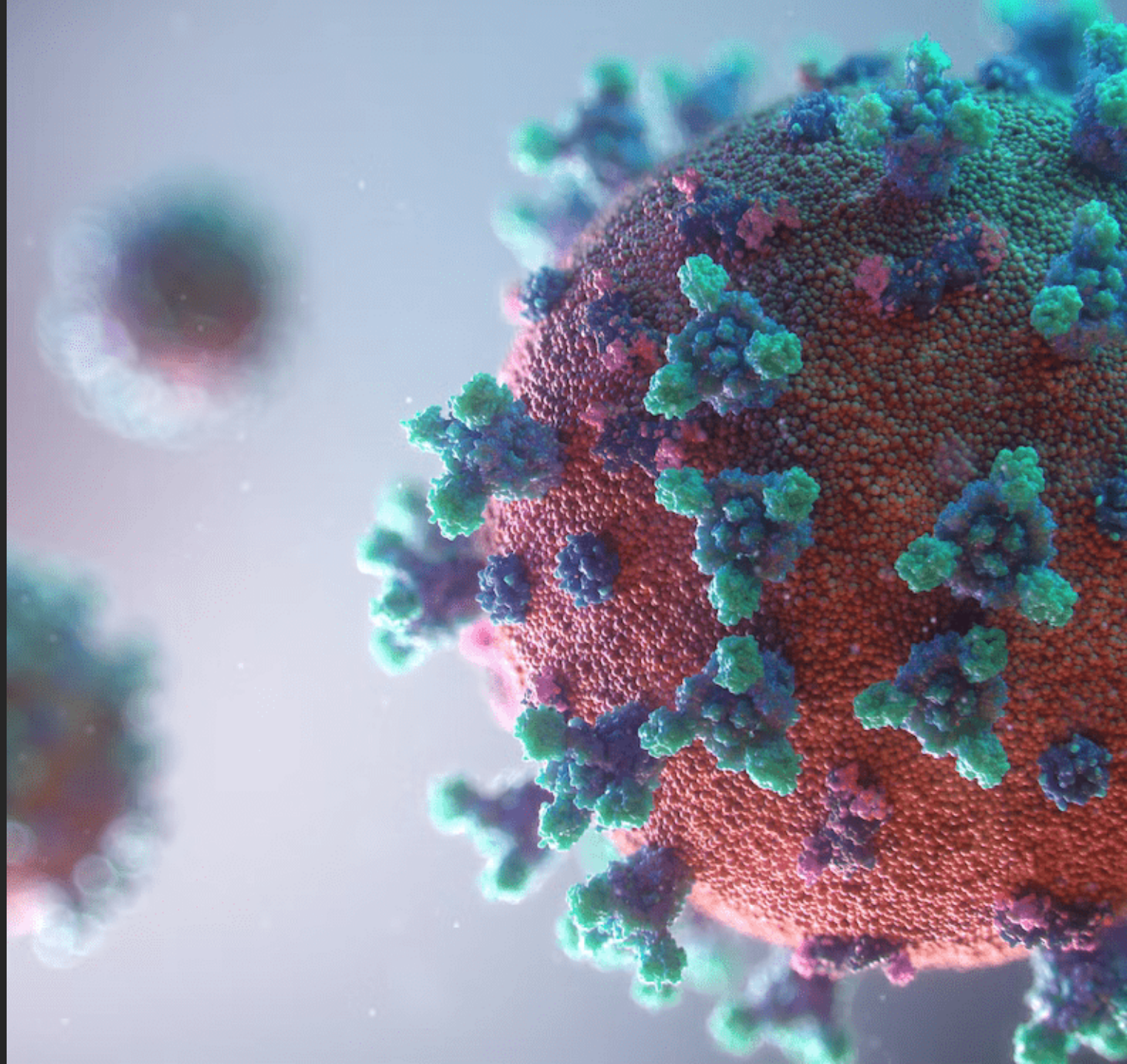
Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Seasonal or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable

- RSV is one of the most common viral pathogens causing upper and lower respiratory infection.
- RSV occurs in all ages, in all countries with the burden of disease ranging for mild to severe.
- Unlike flu and COVID-19, we have limited understanding of who transmits to whom.
- A moderately effective treatment and prevention strategy, targeting those at risk of severe disease is likely to have a major impact



## Summary:

Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Predictable or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable



# Predictable or Unpredictable

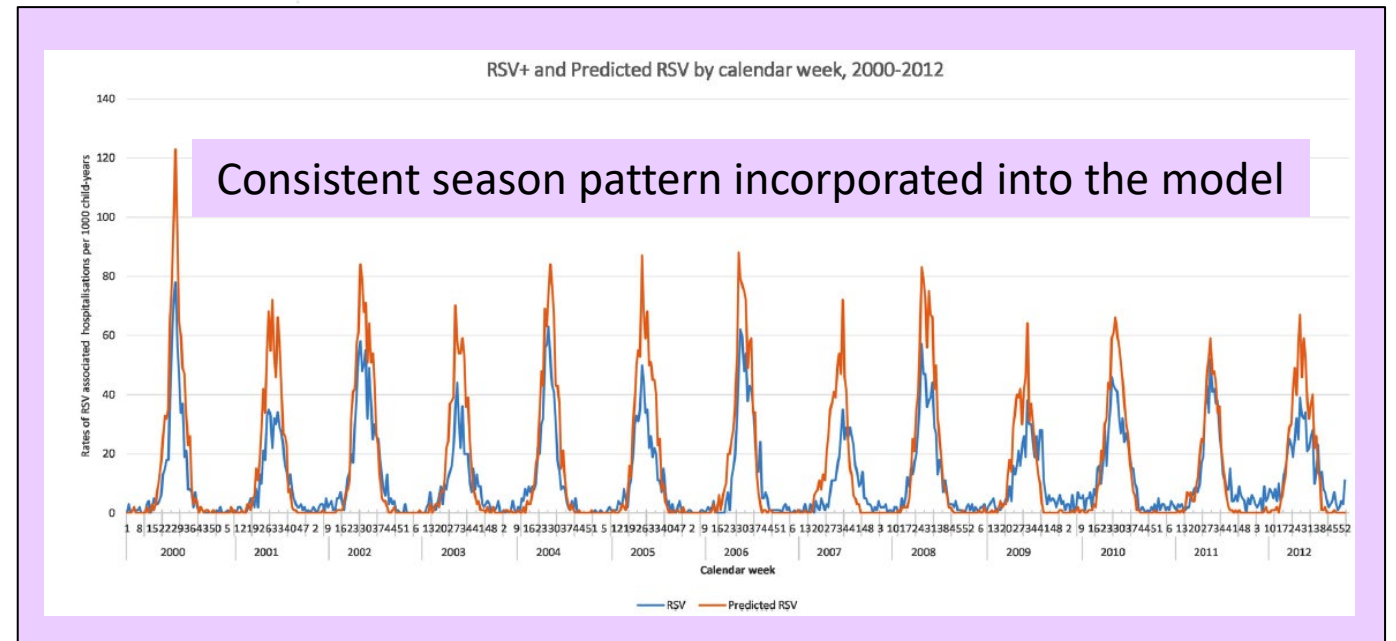
Every disease occurs at any season of the year but some of them more frequently occur and are of greater severity at certain times

# Predictable or Unpredictable

## scientific reports

Check for updates

### OPEN Developing a prediction model to estimate the true burden of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in hospitalised children in Western Australia



causing 3.2 million detected hospitalisation episodes every year<sup>1</sup>. The true burden is likely to be much greater, with approximately half of RSV-associated deaths estimated to occur outside of hospital<sup>1</sup>. In Australia, for every

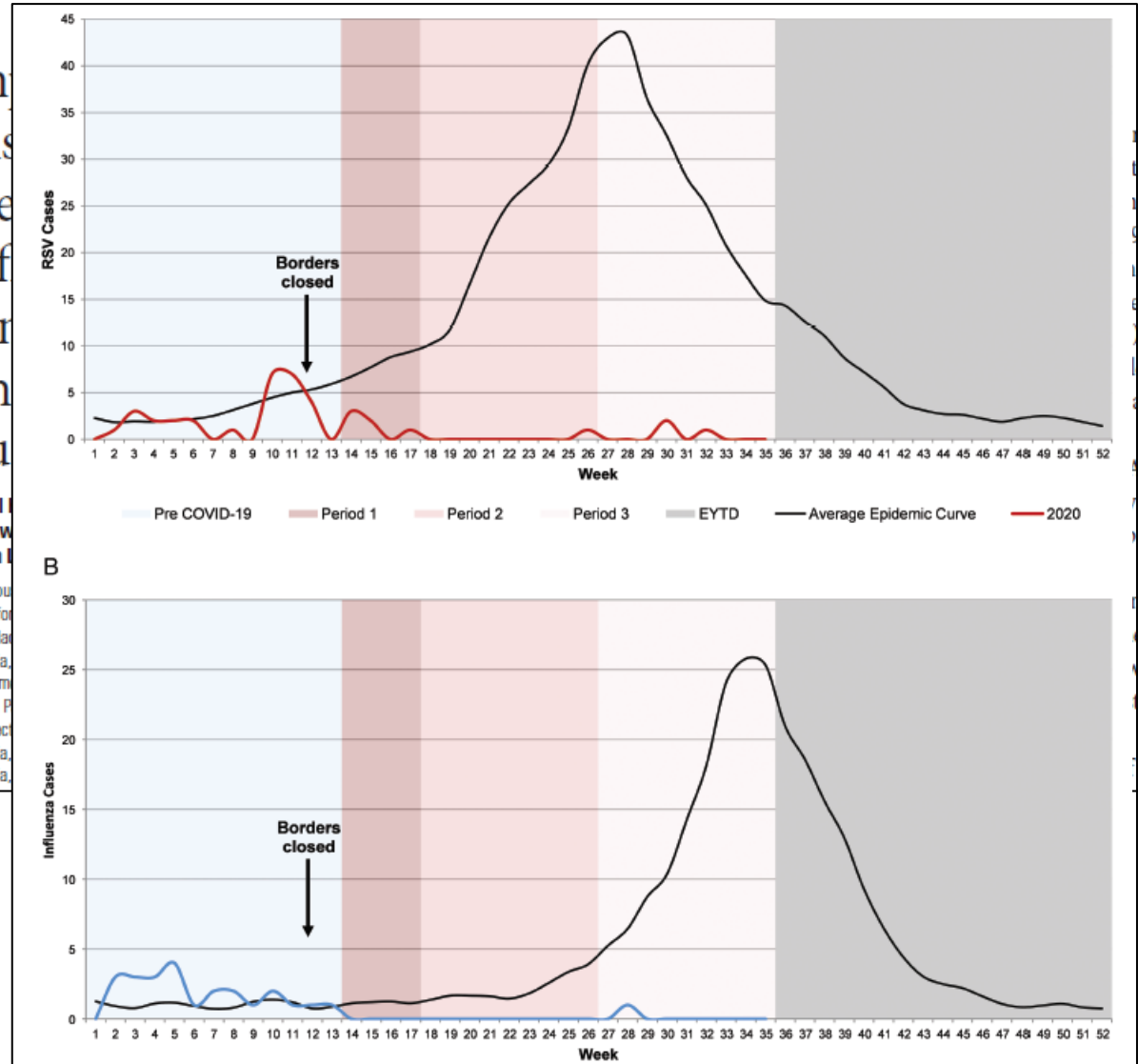


# Predictable or Unpredictable

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<sup>1</sup>Infectious  
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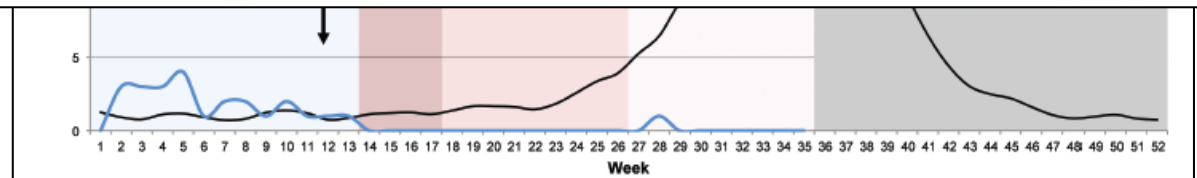
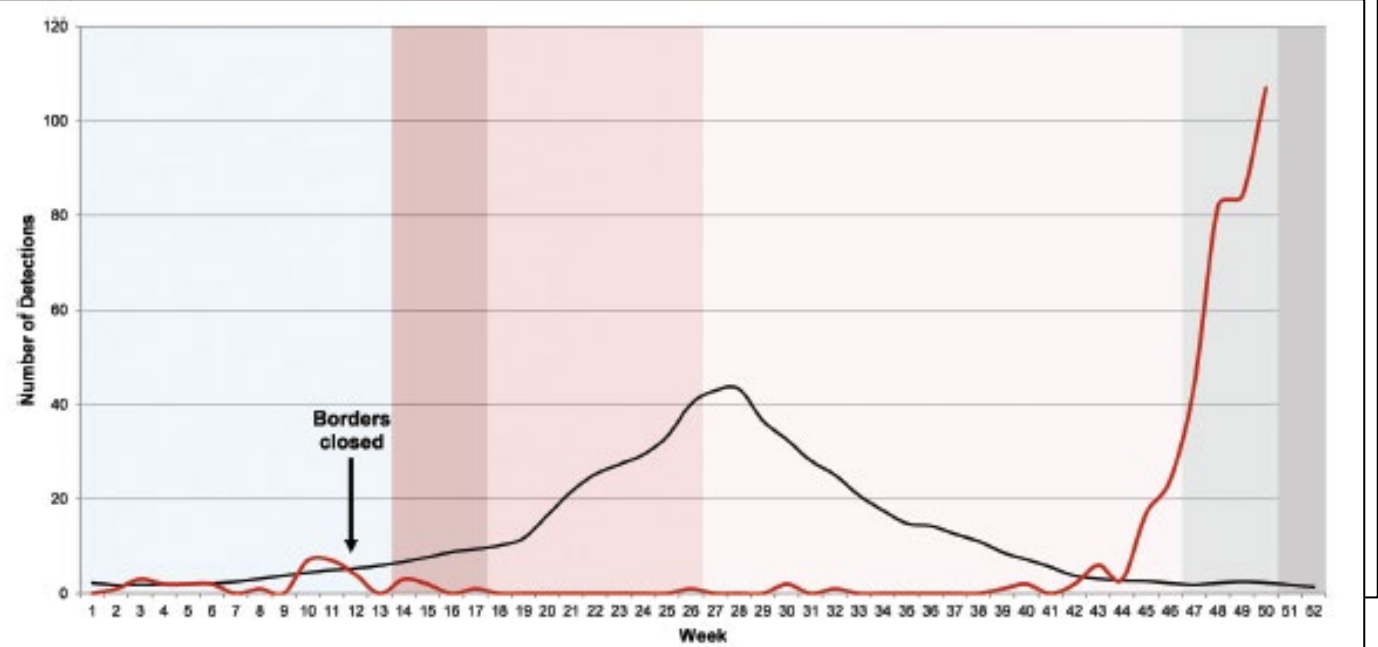
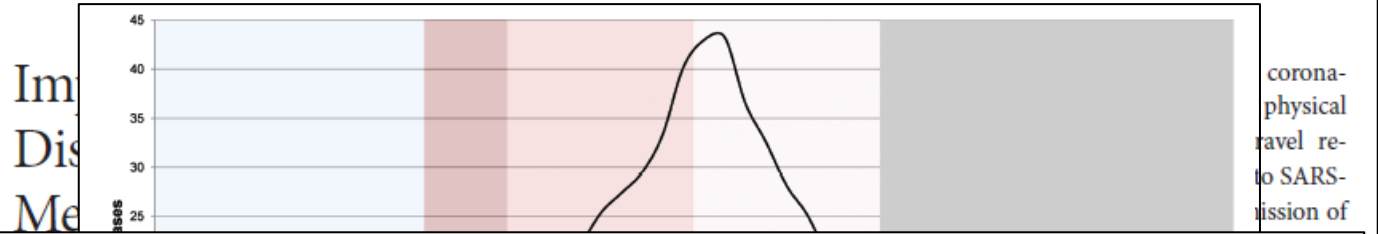


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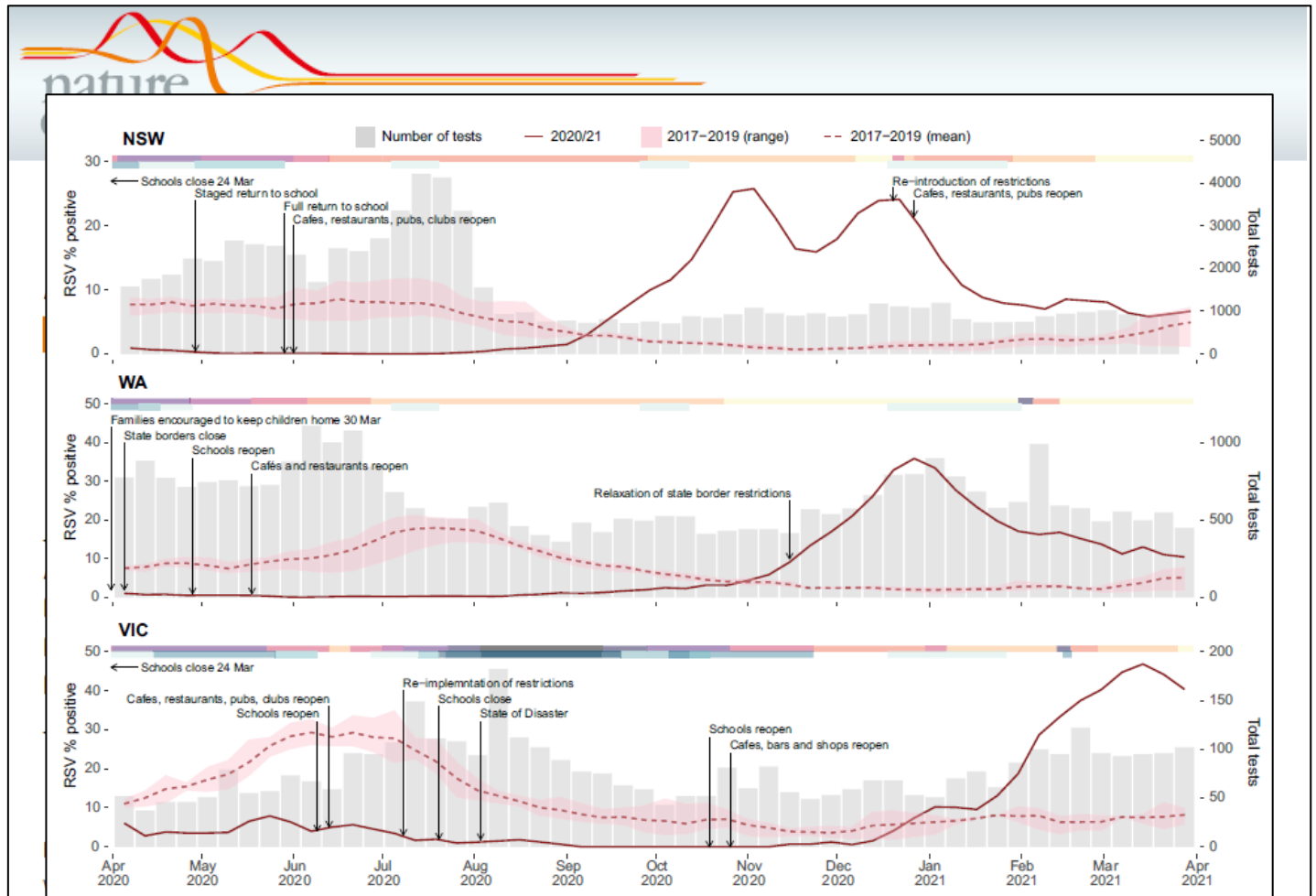
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# Predictable or Unpredictable



# Predictable or Unpredictable

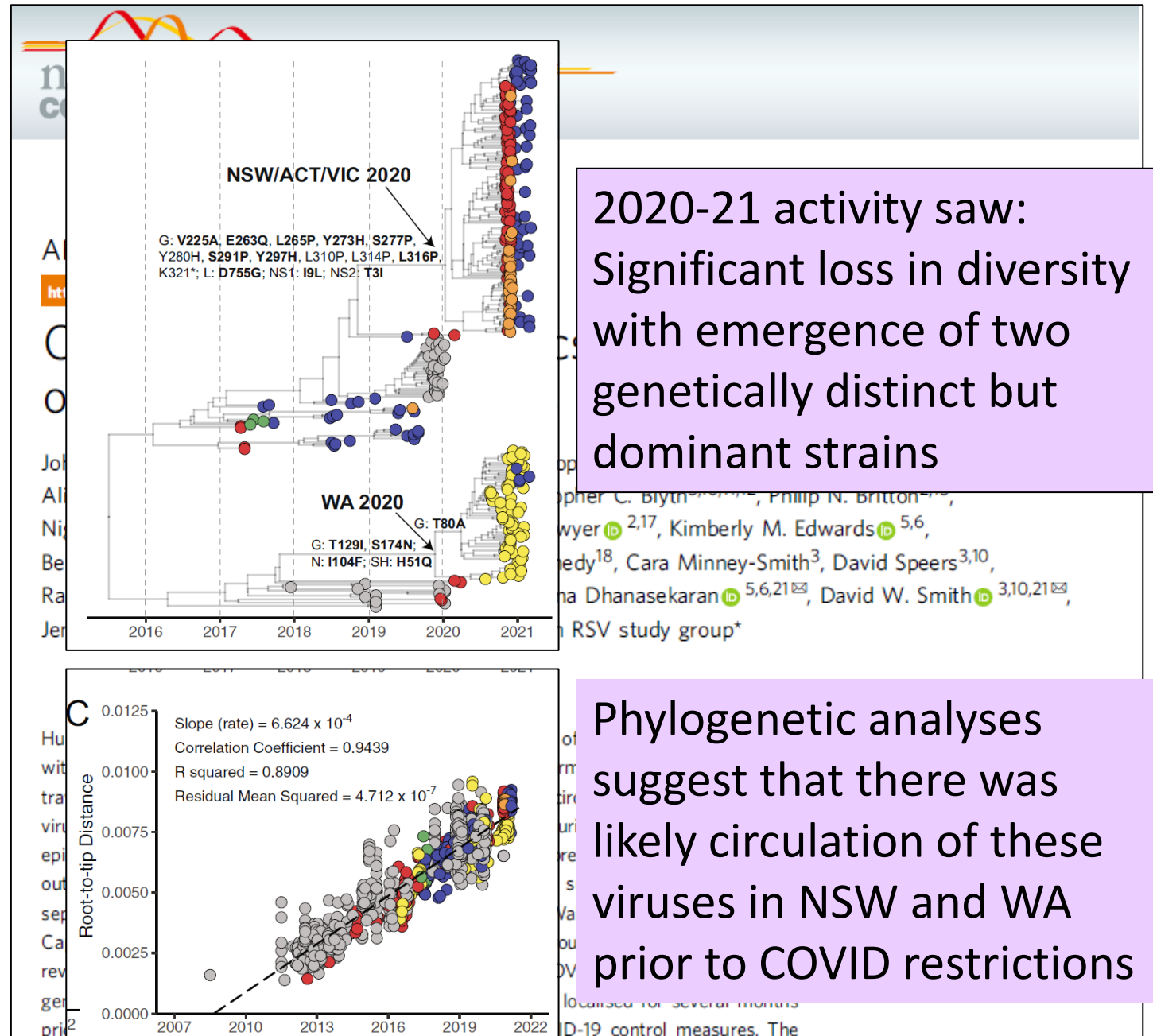


Out of season RSV epidemics occurred in all Australia states, but at different times:  
NSW to WA to Victoria

genetically distinct RSV-A clades circulating cryptically, likely localised for several months prior to an epidemic surge in cases upon relaxation of COVID-19 control measures. The



# Predictable or Unpredictable



2020-21 activity saw:  
Significant loss in diversity  
with emergence of two  
genetically distinct but  
dominant strains

Phylogenetic analyses  
suggest that there was  
likely circulation of these  
viruses in NSW and WA  
prior to COVID restrictions

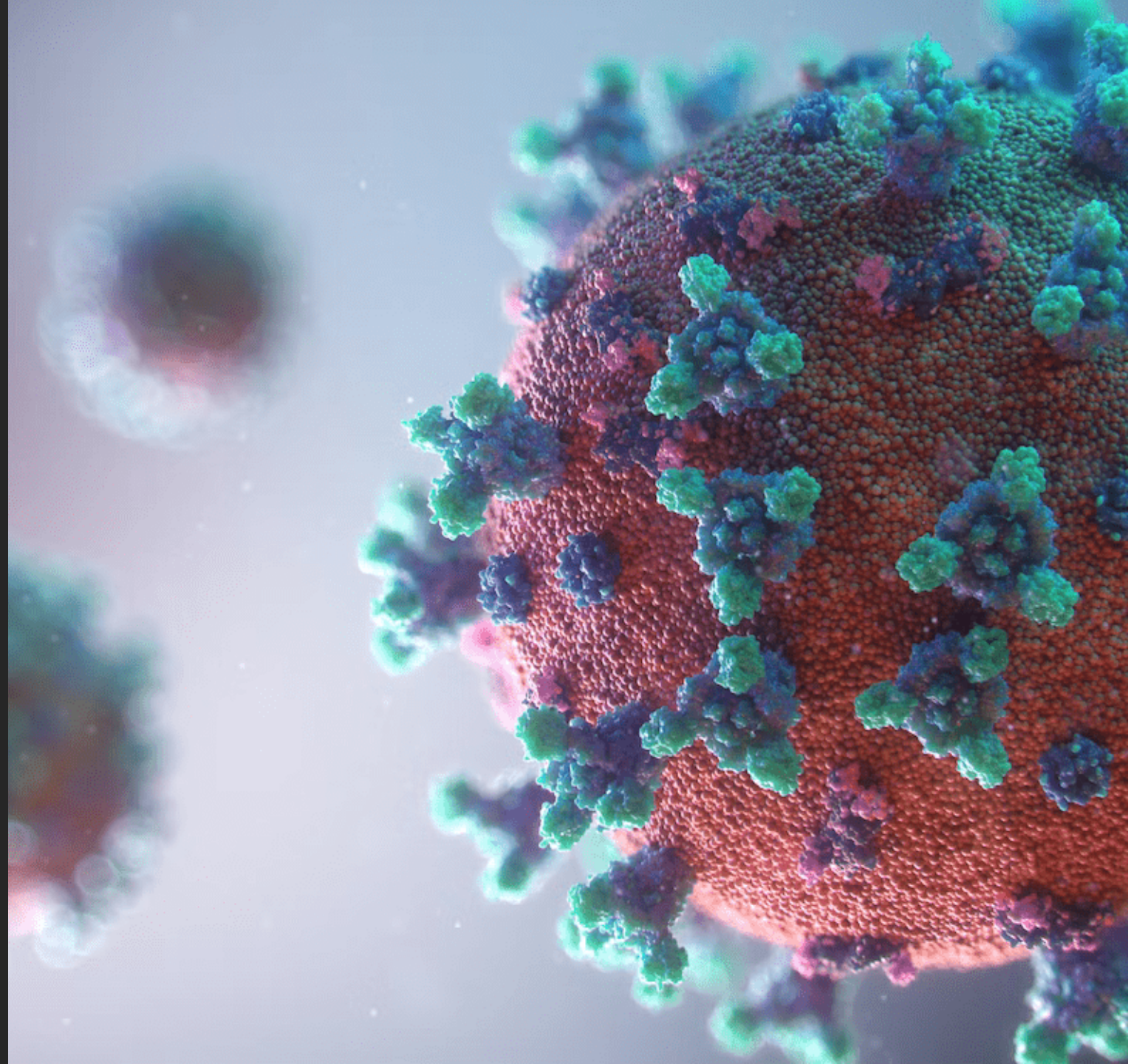
## Summary:

Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Predictable or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable

- During COVID-19, the predictable pattern of RSV became unpredictable
- COVID-19, the disrupter, forced us to question many of the assumptions that we previously made about seasonality and transmission
- BUT, RSV has returned to a normal seasonal pattern with activity expected to commence in April-May 2024

## Summary:

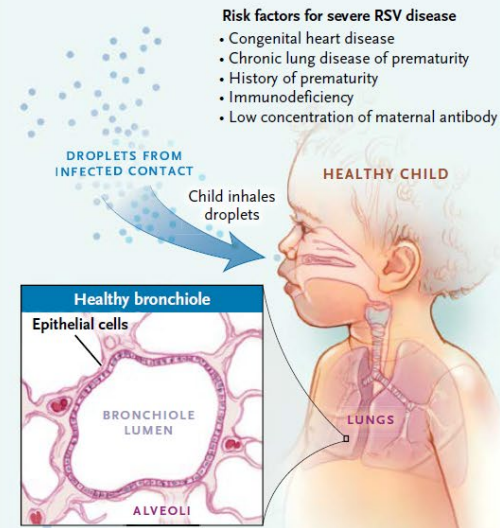
Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Predictable or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable



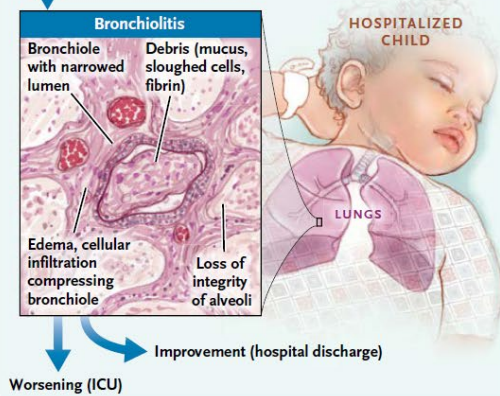


# Self limiting or Treatable

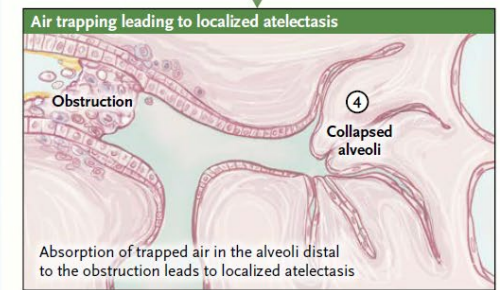
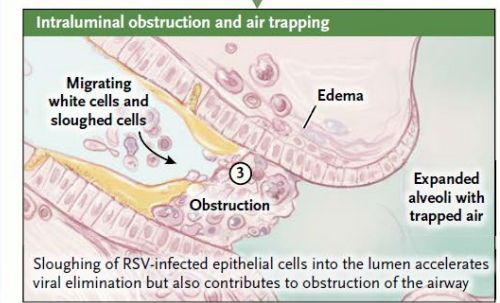
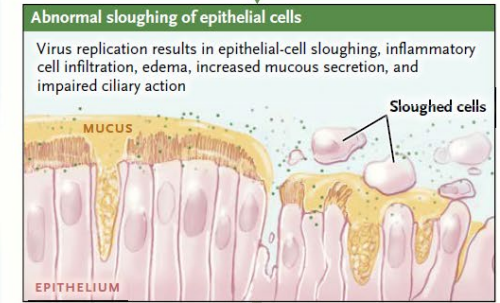
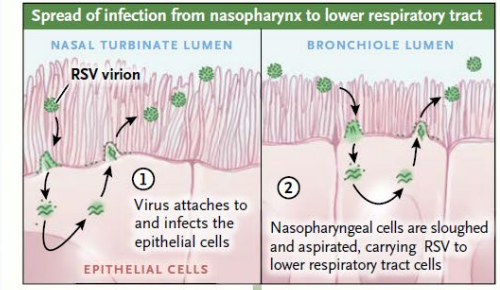
## A Clinical Progression of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)



- 1 After 4–6-day incubation period, fever, congestion, rhinorrhea, irritability, and poor feeding develop.
- 2 2–3 days after onset of upper respiratory tract symptoms, approximately one third of patients have spread of infection to lower respiratory tract (bronchiolitis).
- 3 Cough, tachypnea, wheezing, grunting, nasal flaring, and thoracic retractions may be present. Hyperinflation of the lung develops as air is trapped behind occluded bronchioles.
- 4 Air trapped in the alveoli is absorbed, resulting in localized atelectasis distal to obstruction.
- 5 Increased work of breathing and decline in lung function occur owing to mismatching of ventilation and perfusion, resulting in increasing hypoxemia.



## B Pathogenesis of RSV



# Self limiting or Treatable



Cochrane  
Library

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Informed decisions.  
Better health.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

[Intervention Review]

## Ribavirin for respiratory syncytial virus infection of the lower respiratory tract in infants and young children

Kathleen Ventre<sup>1</sup>, Adrienne Randolph<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Critical Care Medicine, Primary Children's Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. <sup>2</sup>MICU Children's Hospital, Farley 517, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

**Contact address:** Kathleen Ventre, Division of Critical Care Medicine, Primary Children's Medical Center, 100 N. Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84113, USA. [kathleen.ventre@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:kathleen.ventre@hsc.utah.edu).

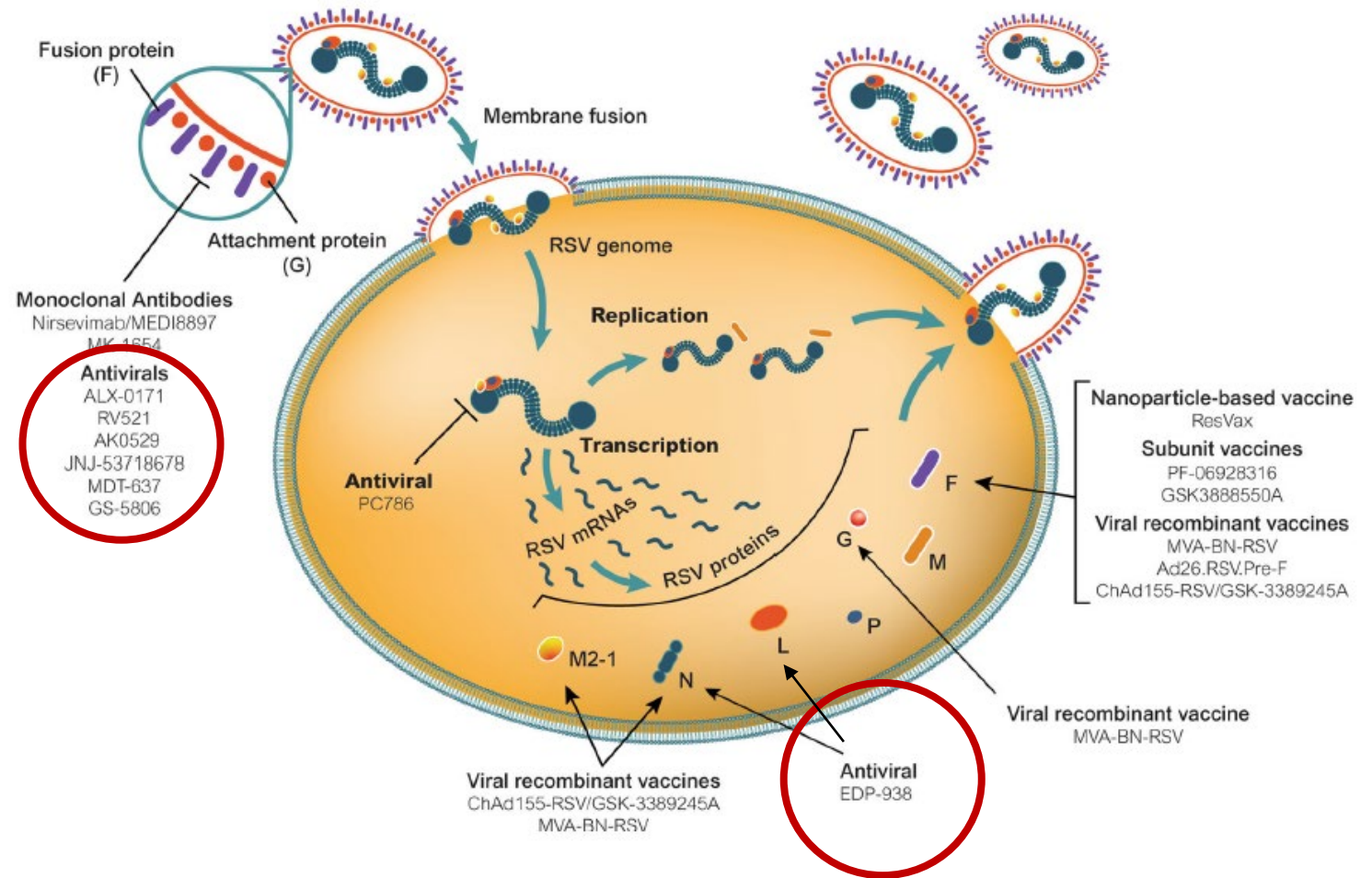
**Editorial group:** Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infections Group.

**Publication status and date:** Withdrawn from publication for reasons stated in the review, published in Issue 5, 2010.

**Citation:** Ventre K, Randolph A. Ribavirin for respiratory syncytial virus infection of the lower respiratory tract in infants and young children. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD009181. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD009181.pub4

12 trials included:  
Mortality – OR: 0.58 (0.18, 1.85)  
Respiratory Deterioration – OR: 0.37 (0.12, 1.18)  
Days of ventilation - 1.9 fewer days (-4.6 to +0.9)

# Self limiting or Treatable





# Self limiting or Treatable

Journal of  
Medicine

12<sup>th</sup> International RSV Symposium in Belfast (September 2022)

Phase III double blind randomised control trial

Children 1-23 months with RSV-bronchiolitis

AK0529 twice daily for 5d / placebo

Primary outcome: Change in bronchiolitis score

Secondary outcomes: incl virological outcomes

ArkBio  
爱科百发

30% reduction in bronchiolitis score (p=0.002)  
77% reduction in viral load (p=0.006)

- Phase 3 AirFLO study with ziresovir met primary and key secondary endpoints of significant reduction of sign-and-symptom score (p=0.002) and viral load (p=0.006) respectively, compared with placebo
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection is a leading cause of hospitalization and death in children under five years old
- Ziresovir is the first antiviral drug successfully completing a pivotal phase 3 study in this patient population
- Regulatory submission in China planned for Mid-2022

Clinical isolates of RSV in central assays, and more than one log viral load reduction in BALB/C mouse model of RSV viral infection. RO-0529 was proven to be a specific RSV F protein inhibitor by identification of drug resistant mutations of D486N, D489V, and D489Y in RSV F protein and the inhibition of RSV F protein-induced cell-cell fusion in cellular assays.

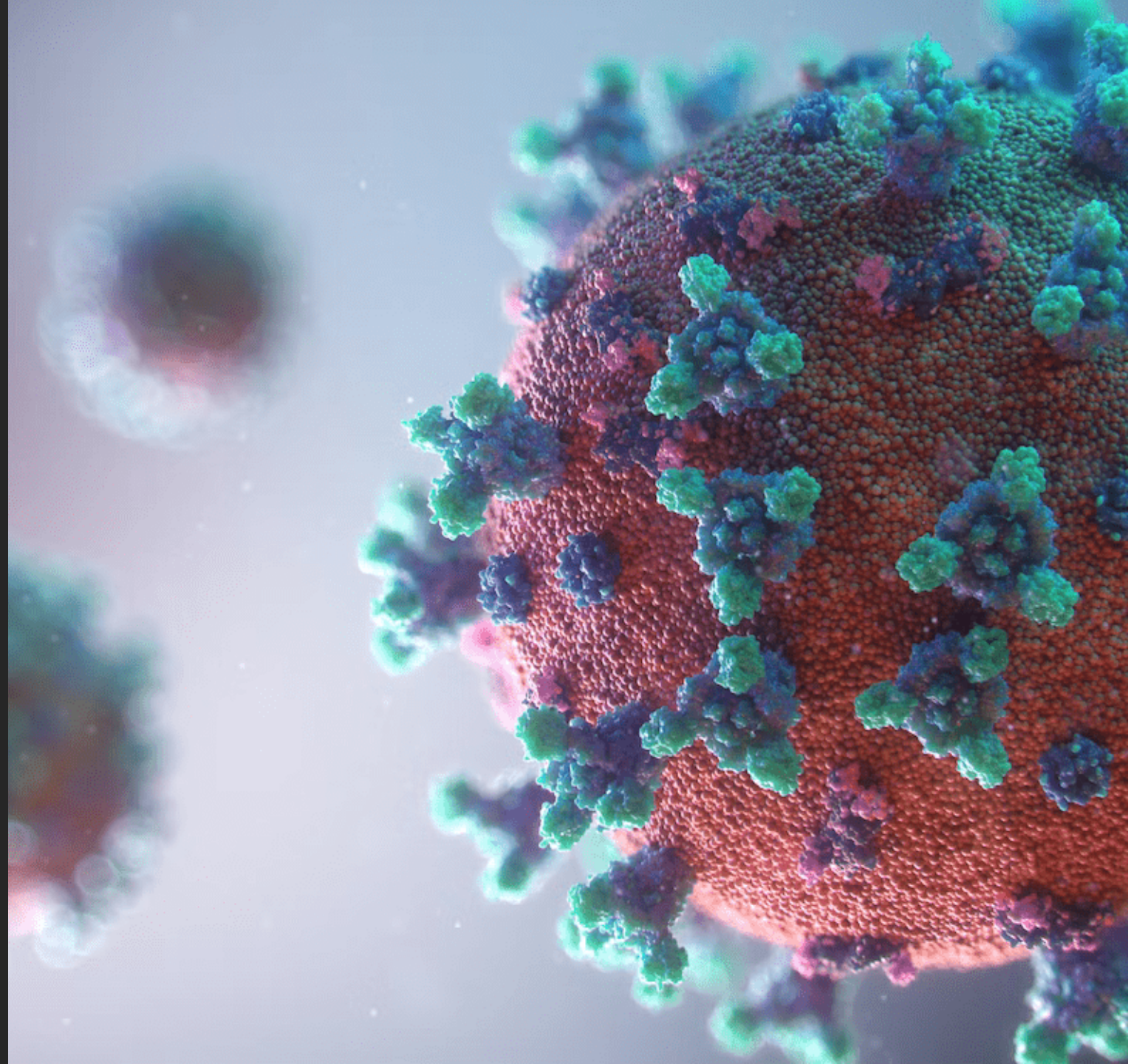
## Summary:

Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Seasonal or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable

- RSV is self-limiting in most children and adults – supportive care is required
- If demonstrated to be effective, antivirals are likely play a role in high-risk populations or those with severe disease
- Evolution of drug targets will remain a future challenge
- Targeted immunomodulation may provide new therapeutic avenues

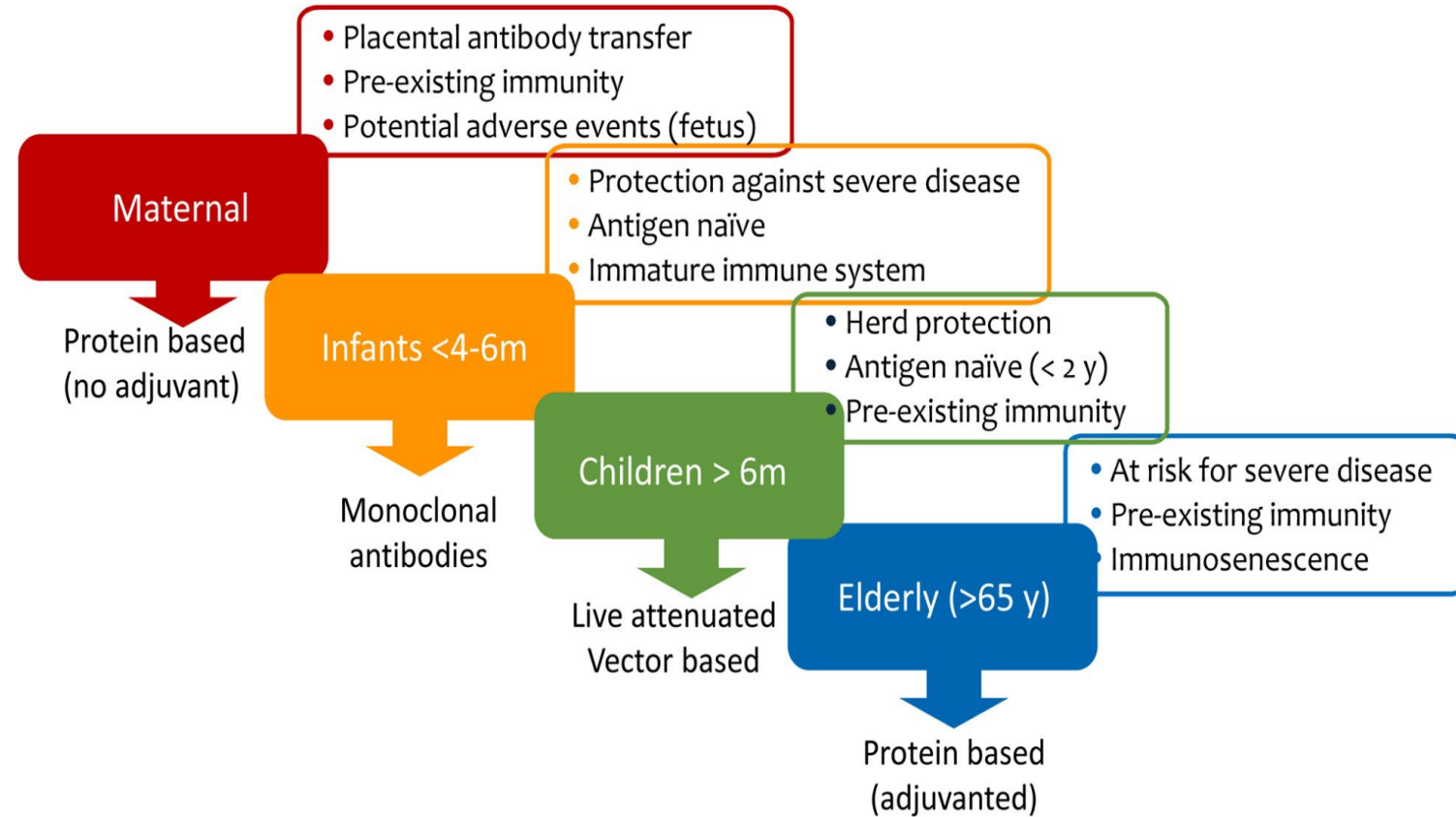
## Summary:

Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Seasonal or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable





# Inevitable or Preventable



# Inevitable or Preventable

RSV fusion (F) protein nanoparticle vaccine, administered between 28 and 36 weeks gestation  
 RCT: RSV-associated medically significant LRTI up to 90 days of life  
 RSV+ve by PCR; one LRTI manifestation; evidence of medical significance (hypoxic or tachypneic) (87 countries; mostly South Africa and USA)

G.M. Glenn, and E.L. Flies, for the Prepara Study Group

	Vaccine	Placebo	% reduction
RSV-associated medically significant LRTI	41/2765 (1.5%)	35/1430 (2.4%)	39.4% (-1.0, 63.7%)
RSV hospitalisation	57/2765 (2.1%)	53/1430 (3.7%)	44.4% (19.6, 61.5)
RSV LRTI with severe hypoxaemia	14/2765 (0.51%)	14/1430 (0.98%)	48.3% (-8.2; 75.3)

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performed in the per-protocol population of infants (prespecified criterion for success, lower bound of the 97.52% confidence interval [CI] of  $\geq 30\%$ ).

**RESULTS**

# Inevitable or Preventable

Bivalent prefusion F protein based RSV vaccine, administered between 24 and 36 weeks gestation  
RCT: RSV-associated medically significant LRTI and severe LRTI at 90-180 days of life  
RSV+ve by PCR; severe defined as fast breathing; hypoxia, respiratory support of ICU admission  
(18 countries; USA; South Africa; Argentina; Japan)

Dr. Cooper, RSV, Janssen, Asta Anderson, Karl Swanson, Tracy Gruber, and Al Gurtman, for the MATISSE Study Group

## Severe RSV-Associated Lower Respiratory Tract Illness

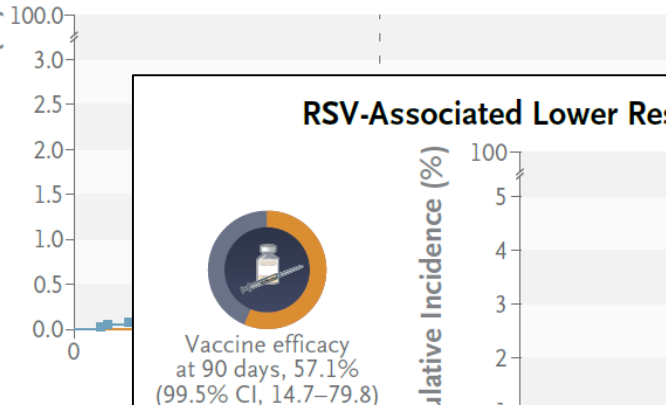


Vaccine efficacy at 90 days, 81.8% (99.5% CI, 40.6–96.3)



Vaccine efficacy at 180 days, 69.4% (97.58% CI, 44.3–84.1)

Cumulative Incidence (%)



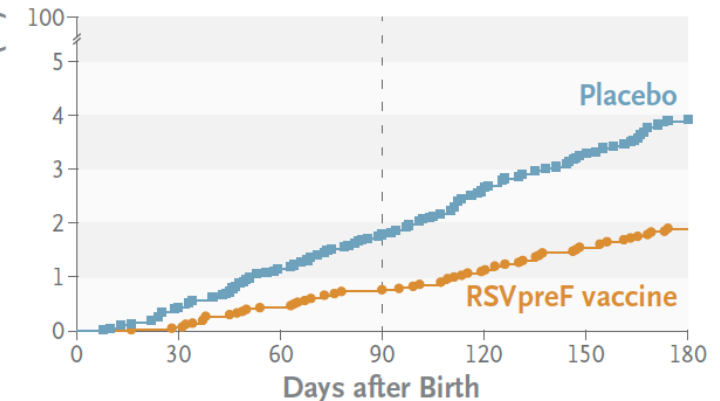
interval [CI] at 90 days; 97.58% CI to meet the success criterion for v

## RSV-Associated Lower Respiratory Tract Illness



Vaccine efficacy at 90 days, 57.1% (99.5% CI, 14.7–79.8)

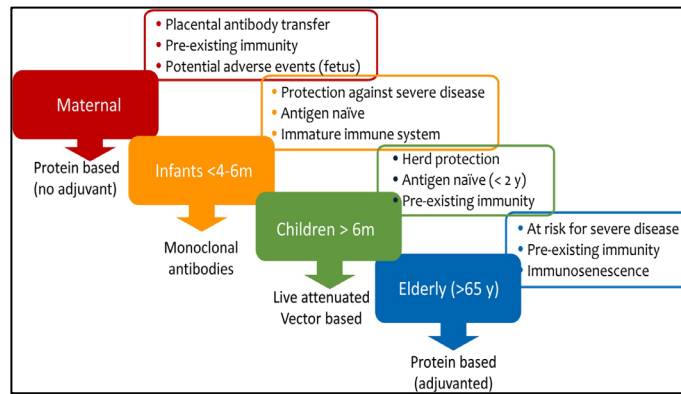
Cumulative Incidence (%)



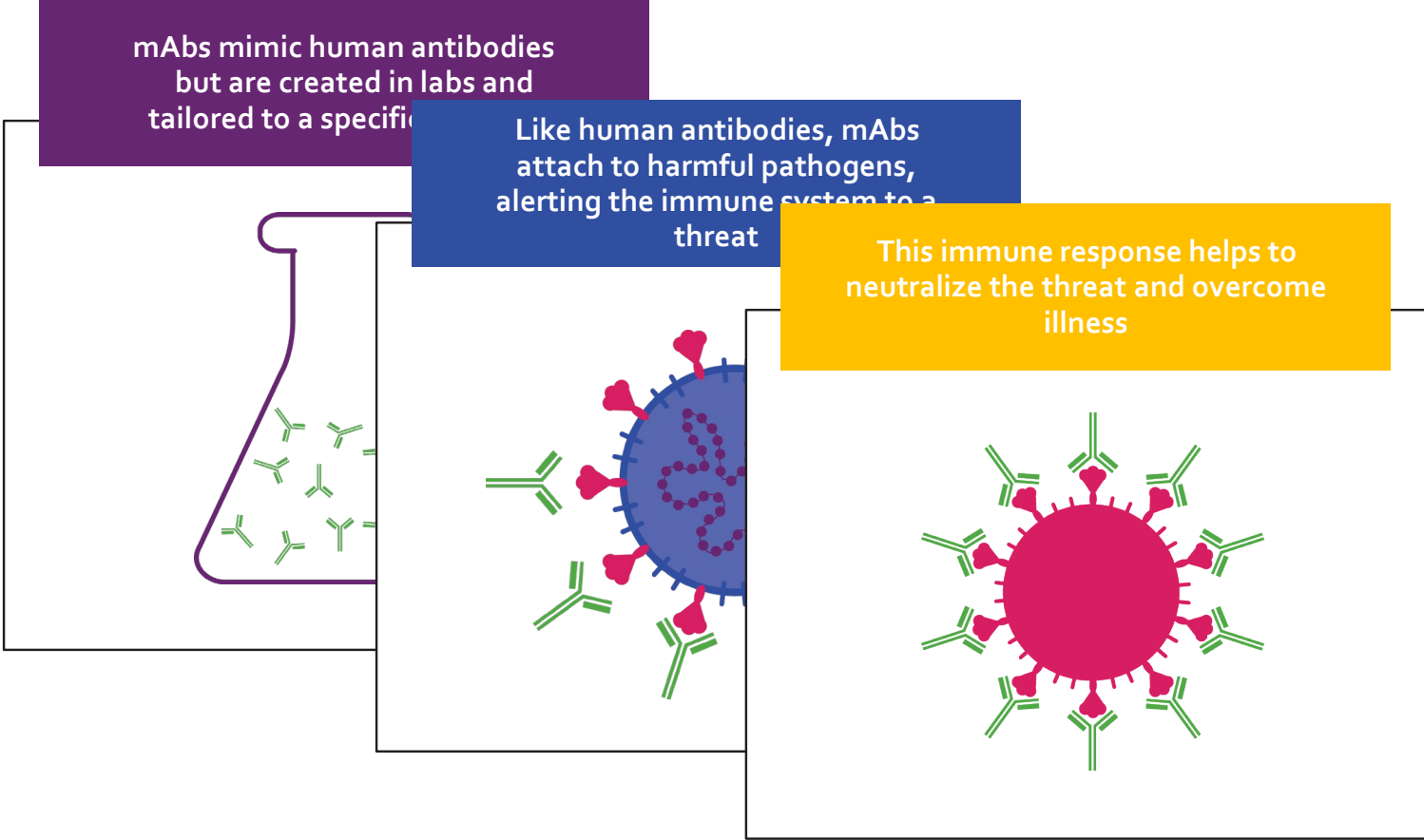
The authors' full names, academic de-



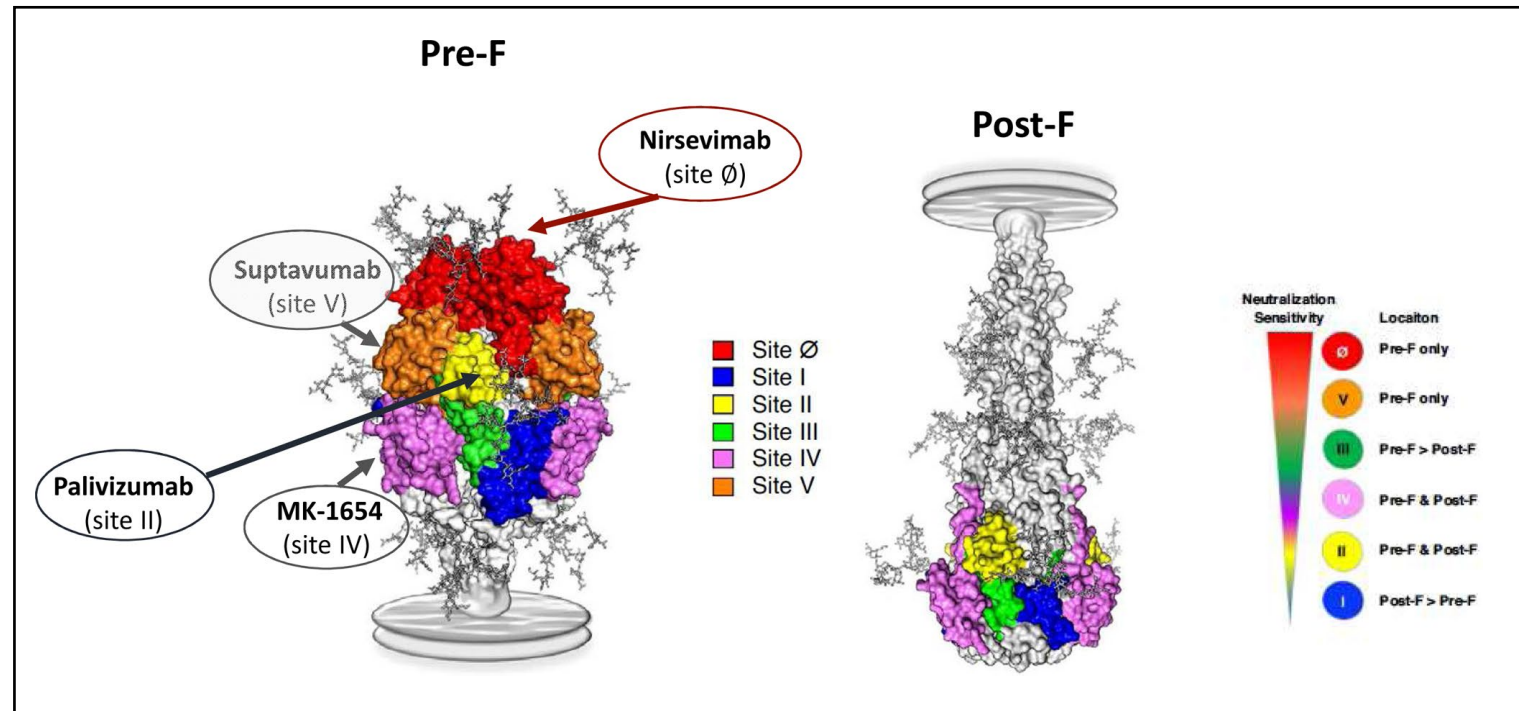
# Inevitable or Preventable



What are monoclonal antibodies?



# Inevitable or Preventable



Success of monoclonal antibodies for RSV prevention has been demonstrated:

- Palivizumab
- Suptavumab
- Nirsevimab

# Inevitable or Preventable

Humanised murine monoclonal antibody directed against single epitope on the fusion glycoprotein RCT and post-implementation effectiveness has been demonstrated  
 Monthly IM injection and high cost limit utility

Antibody, Reduces Hospitalization From Respiratory Syncytial Virus

	Placebo	Palivizumab	% reduction
<b>Primary analysis (premature or those with BPD)</b>			
Incidence of RSV hospitalisation	53/500 (10.6%)	48/1002 (4.8%)	55% (38,72)
<b>Subgroup analysis</b>			
Premature (<35weeks; no BPD)	19/234 (8.1%)	9/506 (1.8%)	78% (66,90)
BPD	34/266 (12.8%)	39/496 (7.9%)	39% (20,58)

illness, and incidence and total days of intensive care and mechanical ventilation. The incidence of hospitalization for respiratory illness not caused by RSV and the incidence of otitis media were also evaluated. The placebo and palivizumab groups were balanced at entry for de-

serious RSV illness in premature children and those with BPD. *Pediatrics* 1998;102:531-537; respiratory syncytial virus, monoclonal antibody, prophylaxis, MEDI-493, palivizumab, Synagis, prematurity, bronchopulmonary

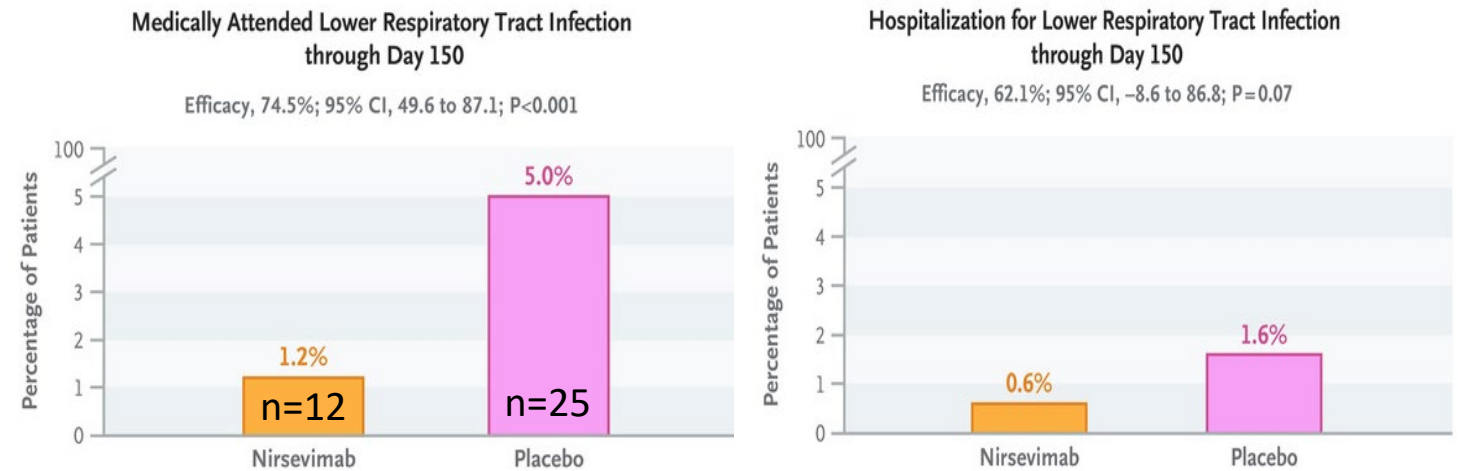


# Inevitable or Preventable

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

A long-acting monoclonal directed against the prefusion F protein binding epitope  
RCT: Medically attended RSV-associated LRTI out to 150 days in healthy term and late preterm infants (20 countries)

A single dose resulted in significant reduction in medically attended RSV-associated LRTI



A total of 1490 infants underwent randomization: 994 were assigned to the nirsevimab group and 496 to the placebo group. Medically attended RSV-associated lower respiratory tract infection occurred in 12 infants (1.2%) in the nirsevimab

nesburg (S.A.M.), and the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Red Cross Children's Hospital, and the Medical Research Council Unit on Child and Adolescent Health, University of Glasgow, UK.

# Inevitable or Preventable

▼ This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at [www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems](http://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems).

## AUSTRALIAN PRODUCT INFORMATION BEYFORTUS™ (NIRSEVIMAB) SOLUTION FOR INJECTION

### 1 NAME OF THE MEDICINE

Nirsevimab

### 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

BEYFORTUS 50 mg solution for injection in prefilled syringe

Each pre-filled syringe contains 50 mg of nirsevimab in 0.5 mL (100 mg/mL).

BEYFORTUS 100 mg solution for injection in prefilled syringe

Each pre-filled syringe contains 100 mg of nirsevimab in 1 mL (100 mg/mL).

For the full list of excipients, see Section 6.1 List of excipients.

### 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection

Clear to opalescent, colourless to yellow, pH 6.0 solution in a prefilled syringe

### 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

#### 4.1 THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS

BEYFORTUS is indicated for the prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) lower respiratory tract disease in:

- Neonates and infants born during or entering their first RSV season.
- Children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.

BEYFORTUS should be used in accordance with official recommendations.

# Inevitable or Preventable



Australian Government

Department of Health  
and Aged Care

AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
GROUP ON IMMUNISATION (ATAGI)  
CLINICAL ADVICE

Version 1.0 Issue date: March 2024

## STATEMENT ON THE CLINICAL USE OF AREXVY (RSV PRE-F3) VACCINE FOR PREVENTION OF RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) DISEASE IN OLDER ADULTS IN AUSTRALIA

A new chapter on RSV in the Australian Immunisation Handbook is being prepared and will be available at [immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au) by mid-2024. Until then, use this statement for clinical practice guidance.

### RSV vaccine

One vaccine is currently available on the private market in Australia for adults aged  $\geq 60$  years to prevent illness and severe complications associated with RSV infection:

- **Arexvy** (GlaxoSmithKline) is an adjuvanted recombinant RSV vaccine. Arexvy is administered as a single dose of 0.5 mL by intramuscular injection and may be given at any time of the year. It is registered for use in adults  $\geq 60$  years of age. At this time, Arexvy is available only through private prescription. It is not currently funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

### ATAGI recommendations

A single dose of Arexvy RSV vaccine is recommended for the following groups:

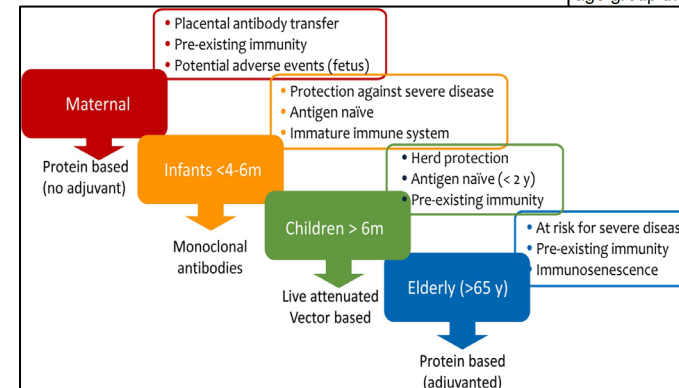
- **All adults aged  $\geq 75$  years**, who have the highest burden of RSV hospitalisation and are likely to have the greatest benefit from vaccination.
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 60 to 74 years**, who have a rate of RSV-associated hospitalisation that is similar to non-Indigenous Australians aged  $\geq 75$  years.
- **Adults aged 60 to 74 years with medical conditions that increase their risk of severe disease due to RSV** (see Table 1).

**All other adults aged 60 to 74 years can consider RSV vaccination.** The burden of RSV disease is lower in this age group than in people aged  $\geq 75$  years, so the benefits of vaccination may be less.

can be co-administered with other vaccines for older adults, such as COVID-19, influenza, and recombinant zoster (Shingrix) vaccines. There is an increased likelihood of local and systemic if Arexvy is co-administered with other vaccines, but the benefits of co-administration should be this.

After Arexvy RSV vaccine to pregnant women or infants. If Arexvy is inadvertently administered to a woman or infant, monitor for adverse events following immunisation. No specific management is advised for any adverse events to the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) and/or [state and territory health authorities](#).

Further doses in the future has not yet been established. Recommendations on the need for further doses will be provided when evidence is available.





## Summary:

Mild or Severe, Young or Old  
Seasonal or Unpredictable  
Self limiting or Treatable  
Inevitable or Preventable

After years of disappointment, 2021-2024 has been an exciting period in the RSV world:

- Safe and effective long-acting monoclonals for infants
- Safe and effective maternal vaccines
- Safe and effective vaccines for adults

RSV is not inevitable – it is now preventable

# Acknowledgements:

## Perth Children's Hospital:

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