

Bronchiolitis

What is bronchiolitis?

Bronchiolitis is an infection in the lung (in the breathing tubes) caused by a virus. It can start as a cold with a runny nose and a slight fever for two to three days. Then your child may begin to cough, breathe fast and wheeze (a whistling sound when breathing out) for another two or three days.

Children under one often get this in winter and early spring.

What can I do for my child?

- Antibiotics will not help your child.
- Give your child plenty of liquids (don't worry about solid foods). Lots of small feeds are better than large amounts.
- Give your child paracetamol (Panadol® or Pamol®) if he or she has a fever.

Call your doctor if:

- Your child is vomiting or your child is having trouble drinking fluids.
- Your child is breathing very fast (over 50 breaths a minute) or finds it hard to breathe.
- You can see your child's skin pull in between the ribs with each breath.
- Your child has a blue colour around the lips.
- Your child has problems staying awake when they aren't normally sleepy or your child appears floppy.

Be especially careful and call your doctor if your child has any of the above signs or:

- Your child was born earlier than expected (premature).
- Your child is less than two months old.
- Your child has had heart disease.

What will my doctor do for my child?

- Check to see if your child is getting enough oxygen and check for signs of pneumonia.
- Check that your child is getting enough liquids in his or her body.
- May check on your child again in 24 hours.

Stop other children getting bronchiolitis:

- Keep your sick child home until the cough is almost gone.
- Make sure you wash your hands after taking care of your child.

If your child's condition does not improve and your general practice (GP) is unavailable, contact the 24 Hour Surgery.

If you require further medical assistance and your general practice (GP) is unavailable, contact the 24 Hour Surgery:
Phone 365-7777, 401 Madras Street.

Bronchiolitis (Children)



**24 Hour Surgery
401 Madras Street**

Urgent medical and accident care 24/7

24hoursurgery.co.nz

Phone: 365-7777

