

respiratory tract infection and manifests typical symptoms ([Box 21-8](#)). Infants may have several days of URI symptoms or no symptoms except slight lethargy, poor feeding, or irritability. Children who are infected with RSV are usually contagious for 3 to 8 days, but some infants and patients with weakened immune systems can be contagious for as long as 4 weeks ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014](#)).

### **Box 21-8**

## **Signs and Symptoms of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection**

### **Initial**

Rhinorrhea

Pharyngitis

Coughing, sneezing

Wheezing

Possible ear or eye drainage

Intermittent fever

### **With Progression of Illness**

Increased coughing and wheezing

Tachypnea and retractions

Cyanosis

### **Severe Illness**

Tachypnea, >70 breaths/min

Listlessness