

'Pandemic babies' with no immunity are ending up in intensive care across Australia with respiratory illnesses

- · Rising number of 'pandemic babies' with no immunity admitted to intensive care
- Children presenting with 'co-infections' with Covid and other respiratory illness
- RSV respiratory syncytial virus kills 120,000 young children each year globally
- NSW cases have exploded from 355 a week just three weeks ago to 3775 a week
- There is no vaccine for RSV but it has almost identical symptoms to flu and Covid

By OLIVIA DAY and KEVIN AIRS FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA PUBLISHED: 02:31 BST, 28 June 2022 | UPDATED: 07:23 BST, 28 June 2022

Source : Covid-19 Australia: 'Pandemic babies' with no immunity to viruses ending up in ICU | Daily Mail Online

> A concerning number of 'pandemic babies' with no immunity to respiratory viruses are ending up seriously ill in ICU.

Doctors have revealed children born during the Covid-19 pandemic are requiring intensive care 'from encountering viruses they haven't come across before', such as influenza, RSV and Covid.

The children had been born and raised when there were virtually no other viruses circulating in Australia, other than Covid-19.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead infectious diseases paediatrician Dr Philip Britton said an analysis of ICU admissions across shows babies are testing positive for influenza and Covid at the same time.

'Over the last month or so, we have seen four times the admissions to hospital for flu in children as for Covid,' Dr Britton told The Daily Telegraph.

About half of the children had no pre-existing health conditions, with the elevated number of admissions putting pressure on the hospital system.

Some of the 'pandemic babies' are presenting with inflammation of the chest, brain and heart caused by influenza, Covid, and RSV.

RSV - respiratory syncytial virus - is a major cause of lung infections in children and can lead to pneumonia or bronchiolitis, which is particularly dangerous in young infants.

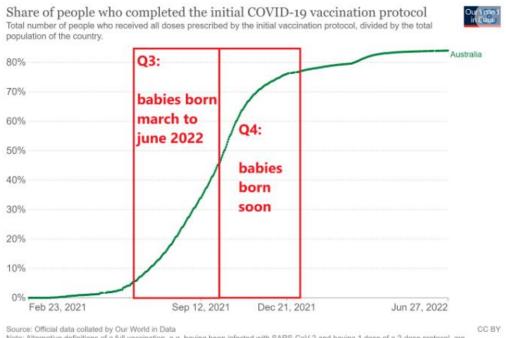
Severe cases can kill babies and toddlers, whose tiny airways have not yet fully formed and who struggle to cope with the infection.

'Among that group who are previously well ... It's not just a chest infection, some of these children can be impacted with the flu affecting the heart and the brain,' Dr Britton told The Daily Telegraph.

A warning was sounded about RSV three weeks ago when there were just 355 cases a week in NSW, but three weeks later that has rocketed up to 3.775 in a week.

Around a fifth of those developed the potentially lethal bronchiolitis, with 40 per cent of them ending up in hospital.

"What was going on right around when these babies were conceived or in their first trimesters that no other babies before had experienced? To be affecting babies born in q1-2 of 2022, we're looking at the span from q2 last year to now with special focus on q3."



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data Note: Alternative definitions of a full vaccination, e.g. having been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and having 1 dose of a 2-dose protocol, are ignored to maximize comparability between countries.