

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024/25 RSV prevention program for older adults, pregnant people, infants and high-risk children 	<p>FROM: Mary Choi, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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Key Messages:

- RSV vaccines (Arexvy and Abrysvo™) are now available to order for individuals ≥60 years of age in specific high-risk populations and for pregnant people.
- The monoclonal antibody product (Beyfortus®) for the prevention of RSV in infants and high-risk children up to 24 months old will be available in late October.
- Beyfortus® is the preferred product to protect infants against RSV.
- Ordering information for the influenza and COVID-19 vaccination programs will be available soon.

2024/25 RSV prevention program for older adults, pregnant people, infants and high-risk children

High-risk individuals ≥60 years of age

High-risk individuals ≥60 years of age in the following populations are eligible for a dose of either [Arexvy](#) or [Abrysvo™](#):

- long-term care homes (LTCH), elder care lodges, or retirement homes (RH) residents
- hospitalized patients receiving alternate level care (ALC) including similar settings (e.g. complex continuing care, transitional programs)
- hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis patients
- solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants recipients
- people experiencing homelessness
- people who identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis.

Individuals who received a dose in a previous season do not require an additional dose. Booster doses are not currently recommended.

Arexvy/Abrysvo™ are now available to [order](#).

Infants and high-risk children up to 24 months old

Infants and high-risk children up to 24 months old are eligible for [Beyfortus®](#). Beyfortus® protects infants and young children from lower respiratory tract infections caused by RSV via passive immunization (monoclonal antibody). Distribution is expected to begin in late October.

Beyfortus® is publicly funded for administration in infants in the following groups:

- born in 2024 prior to the RSV season (the National Advisory Committee on Immunization specifically recommends that infants 8 months of age or less be immunized)
- born during the 2024/25 RSV season
- children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable from severe RSV disease through their second RSV season, following discussion with a health care provider, including:
 - chronic lung disease of prematurity (CLD), including bronchopulmonary dysplasia/chronic lung disease
 - hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease (CHD)
 - severe immunodeficiency
 - Down syndrome/Trisomy 21
 - cystic fibrosis with respiratory involvement and/or growth delay
 - neuromuscular disease
 - severe congenital airway anomalies impairing the clearing of respiratory secretions

Infants born in hospital during the 2024/25 RSV season will be offered Beyfortus® at time of birth prior to discharge. **Primary care and pediatric providers are strongly encouraged to order and administer Beyfortus® to eligible infants and young children born**

prior to the start of the 2024/25 RSV season once the product becomes available.

Peel Public Health will offer Beyfortus® at select clinics on a limited basis during the 2024/25 respiratory illness season for infants under 12 months without a primary care provider. More information will be available shortly on the Region of Peel website.

Vaccination in pregnancy

Pregnant people are eligible to receive a single dose of [Abrysvo™](#). Abrysvo™ is the only RSV vaccine currently indicated in pregnancy. It may be administered to pregnant individuals:

- 32 to 36 weeks gestational age whose infant will be born just before or during the RSV season.
and
- who do not wish to or are not able to protect their infant using the monoclonal antibody.

Only one of the RSV products is recommended to protect infants from RSV and using both is unnecessary except in certain circumstances (for example, a high-risk infant born to someone who received the vaccine). **As per the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Beyfortus® (monoclonal antibody) is the preferred product to protect infants over vaccination in pregnancy.**

Abrysvo™ is now available to [order](#).

Note: The RSV vaccines (Arexvy and Abrysvo™) will not be available for adults at Peel Public Health clinics.

Resources

[Ministry: Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) prevention programs - HCP guidance and fact sheets](#)

[National Advisory Committee on Immunization: Statement on the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus disease in infants](#)

[National Advisory Committee on Immunization: Statement on the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus disease in older adults](#)

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines

Information associated to the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines will be available soon.