

# 2024/2025 RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) PREVENTION PROGRAMS

INFORMATION FOR YORK REGION HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AS OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

To reduce the incidence and potential severity of respiratory infections, the following publicly funded RSV products are available for the 2024/2025 respiratory season:

- Vaccines for high-risk older adults
- Monoclonal antibodies for all infants and high-risk children up to the age of 2 years
- Vaccines for pregnant individuals, as determined by their health care provider

## RSV VACCINES FOR HIGH-RISK OLDER ADULTS

To protect older adults, Arexvy® and Abrysvo™ are the two RSV vaccines available for the 2024/2025 High-Risk Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program. These are interchangeable vaccines for high-risk older adults who are 60 years of age and older. RSV vaccines can be safely co-administered with other vaccines, including other seasonal immunizations (i.e., COVID-19 and influenza vaccines).

Eligible individuals must be **60 years of age and older** and belong to at least one of the following groups:

- Residents of long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges, or retirement homes
- Patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC) including similar settings (e.g., complex continuing care, hospital transitional programs)
- Patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis

Studies have shown that a single dose of RSV vaccine provides multi-year protection, and as such, individuals who received a dose of RSV vaccine during the 2023/2024 respiratory illness season do not need and are not eligible for another dose this season.

## INFANT AND HIGH-RISK CHILDREN RSV PREVENTION PROGRAM

This year, the program has been expanded to provide passive immunity to all infants born during and outside of the RSV season and children under 2 years of age with high-risk medical conditions. Beyfortus® and Abrysvo® are the two RSV products available for the 2024/2025 Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Prevention Program. Beyfortus® is administered to infants and children, while Abrysvo® is administered to the pregnant individual, thus providing protection to the infant through parental antibodies. The program is transitioning from Synagis® (palivizumab) to Beyfortus® (nirsevimab), a monoclonal antibody that provides immediate, effective, and sustained protection during the RSV season with a single dose.

Optimal administration time of Beyfortus® for eligible individuals starts shortly before the start of the RSV season and continues throughout the RSV season. The Ministry of Health will communicate the start and end dates of the RSV season to inform appropriate and timely use. Beyfortus® can be co-administered with routine childhood vaccines.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

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York Region

Beyfortus® will be publicly funded for infants and children who are residents of Ontario and meet any of the following criteria:

- Born in 2024 prior to the RSV season (e.g. January 1, 2024, to November 2024)
- Born during the 2024-2025 RSV season
- Children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season with:
  - Chronic lung disease of prematurity (CLD), including bronchopulmonary dysplasia requiring ongoing assisted ventilation, oxygen therapy or chronic medical therapy in the six months prior to the start of RSV season
  - Hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease (CHD) requiring corrective surgery or are on cardiac medication for congestive heart failure or diagnosed with moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension
  - Severe immunodeficiency
  - Down syndrome/Trisomy 21
  - Cystic fibrosis with respiratory involvement and/or growth delay
  - Neuromuscular disease impairing clearing of respiratory secretions
  - Severe congenital airway anomalies impairing clearing of respiratory secretions

While Abrysvo™ may be offered to pregnant individuals who are residents of Ontario and between 32 and 36 weeks of pregnancy, whose infant(s) will be born just prior to or during the RSV season, administration of Beyfortus® to the infant is preferable due to better efficacy in infants against severe RSV illness, longer duration of protection, and favourable safety profile.

Administration of **both** Abrysvo™ to the pregnant individual and Beyfortus® to the infant is not necessary, except under specific circumstances (e.g. infants who are born less than 2 weeks after administration of Abrysvo). Generally, if there is a plan for the infant to receive Beyfortus®, vaccination of the pregnant individual with Abrysvo is not necessary, as receiving both grants no additional benefit over one for healthy full-term infants. Use of Abrysvo™ during pregnancy instead of Beyfortus® administration to the infant at birth may be considered on a case-by-case basis based on shared clinical decision-making and can be ordered from York Region Public Health.

## RESOURCES

For Healthcare Providers:

- [Ministry of Health Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention Programs](#)
- [Chief Medical Officer of Health's Letter to Health Care Providers/ Health Care Settings re: Ontario's 2024-2025 High-Risk Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program](#)
- [Older Adult High-Risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Vaccine Program Fact Sheet – Health Care Providers](#)
- [Chief Medical Officer of Health's Letter to Health Care Providers re: Ontario's 2024-2025 Infant and High-risk Children RSV Prevention Program](#)
- [Infant and High-risk Children Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention Program Guidance for Health Care Providers - Beyfortus® \(nirsevimab\)](#)
- [Infant and High-Risk Children Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention Program Guidance for Health Care Providers - Abrysvo™](#)
- [Arexvy® Product Monograph](#)
- [Abrysvo™ Product Monograph](#)

For Vaccine Recipients:

- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [Older Adult High-Risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Vaccine Program Fact Sheet – Vaccine Recipients](#)
- [Infant and High-risk Children Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention Program - Immunity, Monoclonal Antibodies and Vaccination Fact Sheet](#)
- [Infant and High-risk Children Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention Program - Monoclonal Antibody for Infants and High-risk Children Fact Sheet](#)
- [Infant and High-risk Children Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention Program - Vaccine for Pregnant Individuals Fact Sheet](#)

## CONTACT YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

For more information on RSV vaccine products, contact our Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team at [vaccineinformationline@york.ca](mailto:vaccineinformationline@york.ca) or by phone at 1- 877-464-9675 ext. 73452. For inquiries related to orders and returns, contact our Vaccine Inventory Program at [vaccineinventory@york.ca](mailto:vaccineinventory@york.ca), call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033, or visit us at [york.ca/vaccineinventory](http://york.ca/vaccineinventory).