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RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) IN INFANTS & PREGNANCY

Concerns about RSV infection in infants

- Infants, especially those less than 6 months of age and children with certain medical conditions (e.g. prematurity), are at a higher risk of severe RSV
- RSV complications include:
 - Severe lower respiratory tract disease such as pneumonia
 - Hospitalization
 - Admission to the Intensive Care Unit



Concerns about RSV infection in pregnancy

- At this time, pregnant individuals are not considered a high-risk population for RSV infection
- We recommend taking precautions to reduce exposure to respiratory viruses during pregnancy

How to protect your infant from severe RSV infection

There are 2 products recommended to protect children against RSV infection:

1. **A vaccine, RSVpreF (Abrysvo®)**, given in pregnancy between 32-36 weeks' gestation
2. **A monoclonal antibody nirsevimab (Beyfortus®)**, given directly to infants/children in the form of a one-time injection

Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends use of the monoclonal antibody administered to the infant, where available, over the vaccine given in pregnancy

How the RSV vaccine given in pregnancy works to protect infants

- The RSVpreF (Abrysvo®) vaccine triggers the maternal immune system to produce antibodies against RSV
- These antibodies transfer in pregnancy to the fetus and stay with the baby after birth, for protection until 6 months of age



Availability in Canada

- Availability and eligibility for both products vary by province and territory
- As of fall 2024, Ontario, Quebec and Nunavut are offering the new monoclonal antibody product free of cost to *all* infants in their first RSV season, and high-risk children up to 24 months old
- Ontario is also offering the RSV vaccine in pregnancy free of cost
- Speak to your health care provider and/or local public health unit to learn about the options to protect infants against RSV infection in your area

For more information visit <https://firstexposure.ca/protecting-infants-against-rsv-infection-vaccination-during-pregnancy-or-a-monoclonal-antibody-for-infants/> or scan the QR code.



This information does not replace the medical care and advice from your healthcare provider. Please contact your healthcare provider for any questions you may have.

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