



RSV

Respiratory
Syncytial
Virus



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus in Canada. While RSV usually causes mild, cold-like illness, **infants are at a higher risk** of developing more severe illness and requiring hospitalization or admission to intensive care.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) recommends RSV immunization for any infant entering, or born during, their first RSV season (between months of October and April)*.

**Infants younger than 8 months and children up to 2 years old with certain health conditions may still be at risk for severe RSV. Talk to a healthcare provider to see if they should get protection during their second RSV season.*

DID YOU KNOW?

RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia among infants and young childrenⁱ

There are **two approved options** to protect infants during their first RSV season:

1

Preferred option: (if available)*

Monoclonal antibodies given to the newborn (e.g., **Nirsevimab**)



2

Vaccination of the pregnant parent between 32 and 36 weeks of gestation (e.g., **Abrysvo™**)



**As of August 2025, Nirsevimab is only available to newborns through variable provincial/territorial immunization programs. In some locations, it may not be available or may be available only to high-risk infants.*



Pregnant CAF members between 32 and 36 weeks **may be eligible for Abrysvo™** during RSV season.

Discuss your available RSV immunization options with your pregnancy care provider.

For more information, visit
Immunize Canada



References

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2025, May 14). *Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide*. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/respiratory-syncytial-virus.html>