



Expanded Infant RSV Prevention

Information for Health Care Delivery Partners

Overview

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common seasonal respiratory virus in infants and young children, and most children are infected with RSV by 2 years of age. RSV can cause serious illness in all infants, especially those who are born early or with underlying medical conditions.

For over 20 years in Alberta, infants and young children identified at higher risk for severe outcomes due to RSV infection have been provided RSV immunoprophylaxis through the Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children. Beginning November 1, 2026, Beyfortus® (nirsevimab), a monoclonal antibody that protects infants from RSV infection, will also be made available to all infants born in hospital in Alberta until March 31, 2027.

This new expanded program will only be offered in hospital at this time, reflecting the current operational capacity for program administration and delivery. The expanded program will be evaluated to inform future decisions regarding potential further expansion of infant RSV prevention efforts in Alberta.

Key Messages

- Alberta's government is expanding the availability of the RSV monoclonal antibody product to infants born in hospital during the RSV season.
- RSV is a common seasonal respiratory virus in infants and young children, and most children are infected with RSV by 2 years of age. RSV can cause serious illness in all infants, especially those who are born early or with underlying medical conditions.
- Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) is a safe and effective monoclonal antibody that is designed to provide immediate protection against serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV infection in infants.
- RSV is a seasonal respiratory disease, and it is recommended for Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) to be given to infants when the risk of infection is the highest, between late fall to early spring.
- Healthy infants make up most of the hospitalizations with RSV each year. The long-standing Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children provides RSV immunoprophylaxis for eligible infants and children who are at a higher risk of severe outcomes from RSV infections. This program has been successful in limiting the number of hospitalizations of high-risk infants every year in Alberta and will continue.
- Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) will only be available in hospital, prior to discharge for newborn infants. However, the Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children will continue to provide service to high-risk infants and children.

Background

- The most severe and symptomatic RSV infection occurs generally in the first year of life. Five to 10 per cent of infants hospitalized with RSV require intensive care unit (ICU) admission.
- Immunocompromised infants are at higher risk of hospitalization and ICU admission. However, otherwise healthy infants make up most of the hospitalizations with RSV each year.
- RSV immunoprophylaxis has been offered to infants and children at high-risk infants for RSV infection for over 20 years in Alberta.
- Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) is a safe and effective monoclonal antibody that is designed to provide immediate protection against serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in infants. Data shows that infants that received Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) were 75% less likely to have medically attended RSV infections (ex. emergency room, outpatient, urgent care) and 84% less likely to have a hospital admission associated with RSV.
- Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) is a monoclonal antibody, not a vaccine. Monoclonal antibodies are made to provide an immediate immune response against specific disease, protecting against severe illness. The monoclonal antibody binds to an RSV protein to prevent RSV infection from entering lung cells.
- Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) has demonstrated safety and tolerability in infants.
- Beginning November 1, 2026, until March 31, 2027, all infants born during the RSV season in hospital in Alberta will be offered a single dose of Beyfortus® (nirsevimab), administered by intramuscular injection.

Expanded Infant RSV Program Summary

- Beginning in November 2026, all infants born during the RSV season in hospital in Alberta will be offered a single dose of Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) until March 31, 2027.
- Provincially funded Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) will be available to infants born in hospitals in Alberta beginning November 1, 2026, until March 31, 2027.
- Provincially funded Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) is only available at hospitals shortly after birth, prior to discharge and through the Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children.
- Infants born outside hospital are not eligible for Beyfortus® (nirsevimab), unless they are identified as eligible for and are referred to the Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children for RSV immunoprophylaxis.
- Infants born in April to the end of October 2027 will not be eligible for Beyfortus® (nirsevimab), unless they are identified as eligible for and are referred to the Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children for RSV immunoprophylaxis.
- Provincially funded Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) will not be available at maternity or family doctors, midwives, pharmacies, or Primary Care Alberta Public Health.

- Infants born to individuals who received RSV vaccine during that pregnancy do not need to be offered Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) unless:
 - The infant has an eligible high-risk medical condition.
 - The infant was born less than 2 weeks after the pregnant individual received the RSV vaccine.
- Beyfortus® (nirsevimab) will only be offered in hospital at this time, which reflects current operational capacity for program administration and delivery. The program will be evaluated following the season to inform future decisions about infant RSV prevention programs.

Alberta Pediatric RSV Prevention Program

- For over 20 years in Alberta, infants identified as high-risk for RSV infection at birth are provided with RSV immunoprophylaxis through Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children.
- Infants and children who qualify under the existing high-risk program will continue to be offered RSV immunoprophylaxis through the Alberta RSV Prevention Program for High-Risk Infants and Children.

For more information:

- [Alberta Pediatric RSV Prevention Program](#)
- Alberta Immunization Policy - Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Monoclonal Antibody