

Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**



For Health Care Professionals

Expanded RSV Program Eligibility

Both the Infant and High-Risk Children and the High-Risk Older Adult RSV Vaccine Programs have been expanded for the 2024-25 season. Respiratory Syncytial Virus remains a significant cause of respiratory illness among infants, young children, and older adults.

Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Prevention Program

Abrysvo[™] - Pregnant Individuals

The Abrysvo™ vaccine is available for pregnant individuals from 32 to 36 weeks gestation, in consultation with their health care provider.

Beyfortus® - Infants

Beyfortus® is monoclonal antibody (mAb) immunizing agent given to infants just prior to or during the RSV season (generally November to April). It is publicly funded for the following infants and children:

- Born in 2024 prior to the RSV season
- Born during the 2024/25 RSV season
- Children ≤ 24 months at high-risk for severe RSV disease through their second RSV season with:
 - o Chronic lung disease or hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease
 - Severe immunodeficiency
 - Down syndrome/Trisomy 21
 - o Cystic fibrosis with respiratory involvement and/or growth delay
 - Neuromuscular disease impairing clearing of respiratory secretions
 - o Severe congenital airway anomalies impairing the clearing of respiratory secretions

It is recommended to receive ONE product as a single dose (Abrysvo[™] OR Beyfortus[®]).

High-Risk Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program - AbrysvoTM

The Abrysvo™ vaccine is publicly funded for those 60 years and older who meet the following criteria:

- Residents of long-term care homes, elder care lodges or retirement homes
- Individuals in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC)
- Individuals receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- o Recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis
- o *Individuals do not need to receive a subsequent dose if they received one last season.

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Ordering AbrysvoTM and Beyfortus®

Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Prevention Program - AbrysvoTM and Beyfortus®

- AbrysvoTM is currently available to order
- Beyfortus® will be available to order mid-October
- Please use the <u>RSV product order form</u> (or <u>durham.ca/HCP</u> under Forms, then Order).

High-Risk Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program - AbrysvoTM

Eligible vaccine storage and handling sites (e.g. long-term care homes) have already been contacted directly by DRHD and encouraged to place a vaccine order. The Ministry of Health has provided information that all eligible individuals will receive the vaccine at their residence or place of specialized care. If you have not already been contacted, please contact DRHD at 905-668-2020 ext. 3285 if you would like to order AbrysvoTM for your patients who meet eligibility criteria.

Accessing the RSV Vaccine Privately - AbrysvoTM

Adults who are not eligible for an RSV vaccine through the public program can purchase it at a pharmacy with a valid prescription. Pharmacists are authorized to administer the RSV vaccine within their community pharmacy, but not prescribe it at this time.

NACI's statement on the prevention of RSV disease in older adults strongly recommends that all adults 75+ years with health conditions that put them at high risk for severe RSV disease receive an RSV vaccine. NACI also recommends that adults 60 to 74 years of age may consider an RSV vaccine in consultation with their health-care provider.

For additional information please see the RSV section on durham.ca/HCP.

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