

To: Nova Scotia Health Care Practitioners and Immunizers

From: Dr. Jesse Kancir, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health

Date: September 10, 2025

Re: *RSV Immunization Program*

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Component	Details
RSV Season	October 15, 2025 – April 30, 2026
Infant Program	Nirsevimab (Beyfortus): All less than 8 months; high-risk less than 24 months
Adult Program	RSVpreF3 (Arexvy)/RSVpreF (Abrysvo): Adults aged 75 years or older
Implementation	October 15 th for infants; phased roll-out for adults from September 15 th

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a major cause of lower respiratory tract illness, particularly among infants, young children, and older adults. Following National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations, Nova Scotia is pleased to expand the publicly funded RSV immunization program to infants and older adults.

Infant Program

Annually, during a defined RSV season, nirsevimab (Beyfortus) will be offered to:

1. All infants aged less than 8 months born during or entering their first RSV season.
2. Infants at high-risk of severe RSV disease aged less than 24 months during their first and/or second RSV season (see Table 1 for high-risk eligibility).

This year, the season is October 15, 2025, to April 30, 2026. The set RSV season will be updated annually to reflect evolving epidemiology and may be adjusted within a season if warranted. All updates will be communicated.

Nirsevimab is a monoclonal antibody that provides passive, immediate, and temporary immunity that may last throughout the RSV season. For most infants, nirsevimab is a single intramuscular injection with weight-based dosing. It is supplied in pre-filled syringes and can be co-administered with other vaccines.

Birth hospitals and midwives will offer nirsevimab at birth/before hospital discharge. Primary care providers should offer nirsevimab to eligible infants unimmunized at birth/before hospital discharge. Public Health will support access for unattached infants.

Obstetrical and other health care providers are encouraged to discuss nirsevimab with parents during the prenatal period. Early conversations increase familiarity and uptake.

Table 1: Nirsevimab high-risk eligibility criteria for infants

Season	High-risk eligibility for infants aged less than 24 months
First RSV season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All premature infants (i.e., born less than 37 weeks gestational age) • Chronic lung disease, including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, requiring ongoing assisted ventilation, oxygen therapy or chronic medical therapy in the 6 months prior to the start of the RSV season • Cystic fibrosis with respiratory involvement and/or growth delay • Hemodynamically significant chronic cardiac disease • Severe immunodeficiency* • Severe congenital airway anomalies impairing clearing of respiratory secretions • Neuromuscular disease impairing clearing of respiratory secretions • Down syndrome
Second RSV season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All those listed above, except for infants born at less than 37 weeks gestational age and infants with Down syndrome who do not have another medical condition on the list.
<p>* Use the list of immunocompromising conditions developed for COVID-19. The following criteria apply for HIV: CD4 less than 750 cells/μL if age less than 1 year or CD4 less than 500 if age 1 to 2 years.</p>	

Adult Program

Starting September 15, 2025, adults aged 75 years and older are eligible for RSV vaccination. This expands the existing program for individuals 60 years and older living in a licensed long-term care facility or in hospital awaiting long-term care placement.

Two vaccines are available: RSVpreF3 (Arexvy) and RSVpreF (Abrysvo). Most of this year's supply is RSVpreF3 (Arexvy). Regardless of the product used, only a single lifetime dose is needed, ideally offered just before RSV season starts. The RSV vaccine can be co-administered with other vaccines; however, if possible, space it 6 weeks from non-seasonal vaccines. This avoids misattributing adverse events following immunization (AEFIs) to one vaccine or the other and reflects NACI's guidance on post-market safety monitoring.

This year, the adult RSV vaccine will be introduced in phases. In September, pharmacies, Public Health, long-term care, hospitals, and First Nations will receive doses. Primary care providers will follow in November. This phased approach ensures timely public access while balancing distribution and storage needs. Initial supplies will be directed to sites with public booking, where demand is typically highest at launch. We commit to making the RSV vaccine available as quickly as possible.

Reporting Considerations

Public Health strongly recommends reporting all immunizations through Telus MedAccess, QHR Accuro, CANImmunize ClinicFlow, or via Public Health Reciprocal Notification Form (a paper form obtained from your local Public Health office) if you are not using any of these platforms. Timely, complete, and accurate reporting supports population health assessments and citizen access to records through VaxRecordNS.

Remain vigilant for AEFIs and report any following RSV immunizations on an [AEFI form](#) to Public Health; for nirsevimab, also send a de-identified copy to [Canada Vigilance Program](#).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the publicly funded immunization program.

Resources

For further details or additional resources, please consult:

- Nova Scotia Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infant Immunization Program Information for Health Care Professionals available on the [CDPC Information for Professionals webpage](#)
- Nova Scotia Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Adult Immunization Program Information for Health Care Professionals available on the available on the [CDPC Information for Professionals webpage](#)
- [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide](#)
- [Nova Scotia Publicly Funded Vaccine/Immunoglobulin Eligibility Policy](#)
- [Nova Scotia Publicly Funded Vaccine Eligibility for Individuals at High Risk of Acquiring Vaccine Preventable Diseases](#)
- [Nova Scotia Routine Immunization Schedules for Children, Youth & Adults](#)
- [Nova Scotia Health Public Health Routine Vaccine Administration Guide](#)
- [Nova Scotia Health Vaccine Consult Service Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Immunization Agents FAQ](#) available on the NS Health ERIN Hub under Acute Respiratory-All > RSV > RSV Immunization Agents FAQ
- Nirsevimab Storage and Handling Requirements available on the [NSH Vaccine Toolkit for Providers webpage](#)
- Important Information about Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and the RSV Immunization for Babies and Young Children (information and aftercare sheet) available on the [NSH Patient Education Resources webpage](#) under the 'Vaccine' category