

## Advocating for Expanded Infant RSV Protection in Alberta

### The Healthcare Gap

Most provinces and territories in Canada are providing all-infant publicly funded respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunizations during the RSV season, but families in Alberta do not yet have access to the same protection. You can help close this equity gap by writing a letter of support to your MLA or directly to Alberta's Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) to encourage them to advocate for investing in a publicly funded infant RSV protection program for their constituents this season.

### How to Advocate for Expanded Protection

1. Send a letter to your local MLA or directly to Alberta's Minister of PPHS to raise awareness of the protection gap and encourage them to take action by advocating for public funding as a priority for their constituents.

You can find your MLA's email address by [entering your Postal Code here](#).

You can also send your letter directly to Alberta's Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services, the Honourable Justin Wright, here: [PPHS.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:PPHS.minister@gov.ab.ca)

2. Copy and paste the draft email below, personalize and send to your MLA and/or the Minister of PPHS

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### Draft E-mail Template

Subject: Prioritize RSV protection for infants by closing the equity gap

Dear **[MLA/Minister's Name]**,

I am writing as a **[parent / physician / healthcare provider]** in Alberta to ask for your support in implementing a publicly funded RSV prevention program for **all infants** beginning in Fall 2026.

RSV is a leading cause of hospitalization in young children, and Alberta's own data shows that **infants face the highest risk by far**. According to the provincial Respiratory Virus Dashboard:

- Infants under 1 year have **895.7 hospitalizations per 100,000**
- This is **22× higher than seniors aged 70–79**
- ICU admission rates are **26× higher for infants than seniors aged 70-79**

Despite this, Alberta currently funds RSV protection for seniors but only covers **about 8% of infants**, leaving over **90% unprotected**—even though **most hospitalized infants are otherwise healthy and full-term**.

There is strong Canadian evidence that prevention programs work. Quebec’s universal infant RSV prevention program showed:

- **89% reduction in RSV hospitalizations**
- **88% reduction in ICU admissions**
- Only **41 infants need to be immunized to prevent one hospitalization**

Other provinces including ON, QC, SK, MB, NS, PEI, NL, YK, NWT and NU, have already implemented programs to protect all infants, but Alberta remains an outlier.

Recently, MB expanded its RSV program to all infants beginning in October, ensuring every infant can receive protection during their first RSV season, and NL committed new funding through Budget 2026 to extend publicly funded RSV eligibility to all infants under six months of age. These expansions reflect a growing national consensus that RSV protection is both a public health and fiscal priority, and Alberta has an opportunity to follow suit to ensure no infant is left behind.

This is both a **health and equity issue**. Infants, including many from vulnerable and Indigenous communities, are at the highest risk, yet are the least protected under the current approach.

I respectfully ask your support in advocating that Alberta approve a publicly funded RSV prevention program for all infants starting Fall 2026.

Timely action is critical. Delays will mean infants entering the upcoming RSV season will remain without protection.

Thank you for your leadership and for supporting policies that protect Alberta families.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Optional: Your role (parent, physician, etc.)]**