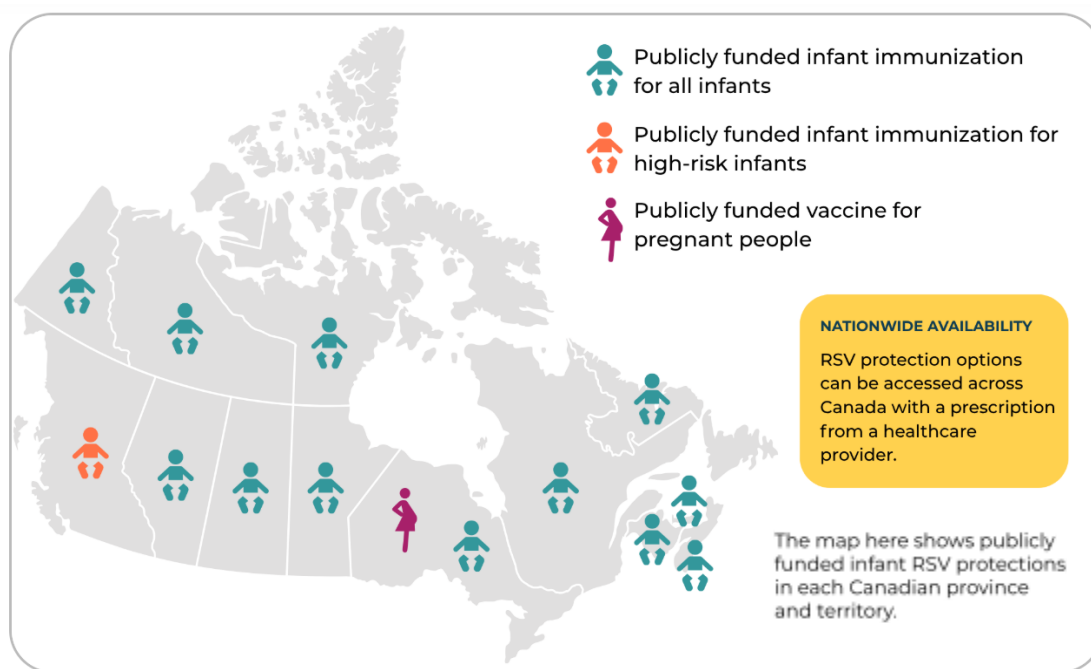


Advocating for Expanded Infant RSV Protection in British Columbia

The Healthcare Gap

While every province and territory in Canada now offers publicly funded respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunizations to all infants during RSV season, **families in British Columbia still do not have access to the same protection**. You can help close this equity gap by writing a letter of support to your MLA 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 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](#).
2. Copy and paste the draft email below, personalize and send to your MLA

Draft E-mail Template

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

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

I am writing as a **[parent / physician / healthcare provider]** in British Columbia 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 BC's own data shows the **burden for infants is significant**. According to the BCCDC Respiratory Virus Data and a study from the UBC Faculty of Medicine and BC Children's Hospital Research Institute:

- Children aged 0–4 years account for up to **50% of all respiratory-related Emergency Department visits** during peak respiratory season in BC
- During the 2025/26 season, pediatric RSV positivity rates in BC were approximately **3–5× higher than those observed in adults** during peak respiratory season
- Infants under six months account for nearly **50% of all RSV-related healthcare costs**
- Infants in remote and Indigenous communities in BC face nearly **3× higher hospitalization risk**, with almost half requiring air evacuation for care

Despite this, BC currently funds RSV protection for only **about 10% 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**

With Alberta's recent commitment to fund an all-infant RSV protection program starting October 2026, **British Columbia remains the only province or territory in Canada without a publicly funded all-infant RSV prevention program**. Every jurisdiction across the country—including ON, QC, SK, MB, NS, NB, PEI, NL, YK, NWT, NU, and now AB—has taken action to protect all infants, **leaving BC as the sole outlier**. These commitments reflect a clear, nationwide consensus that universal RSV protection is a vital public health and fiscal priority. BC now has a critical opportunity to close this gap and align with the rest of Canada so that no infant here 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 for your support in advocating that British Columbia approve a publicly funded RSV prevention program for all infants starting Fall 2026, joining all other 12 provinces and territories across Canada in offering this protection.

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 BC families.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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