

# RSV Information Sheet for Parents

## What is RSV?

**RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus) is a common virus that infects the lungs and airways. Most children will get RSV before they turn two.<sup>1</sup>** In healthy adults and older children, RSV symptoms are usually mild and cold-like. But for babies, RSV infections can be more serious.

## When is my child at highest risk for RSV?

RSV season in Canada is usually from late fall to early spring.<sup>2</sup> **During RSV season, many people get the virus, and it spreads easily from person to person.**

## What risk does RSV pose to my child?

A baby's immune system is still developing, so they are more likely to get very sick from RSV. **RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada<sup>3</sup>** Getting RSV as a baby can lead to long-term problems and a higher risk of other illnesses during childhood, like asthma.<sup>4</sup>

## How can I protect my child from RSV?

In Canada, families have two options to help protect babies during their first RSV season:



**RSV immunization for babies—called nirsevimab (Beyfortus)**



**RSV vaccine for pregnant mothers—called RSVpreF (ABRYVO)**

Both options lower the risk of severe illness from RSV. The decision depends on factors, such as availability, timing (during pregnancy or after birth), and each family's circumstances. Families can make informed decisions by discussing options with a healthcare provider.

## Are these RSV protection options safe?

**Yes! Both the RSV immunization for babies and RSV vaccine for pregnant mothers are safe and effective.<sup>7</sup>**

It's much safer to protect your baby with an RSV immunization or vaccine, than to let them get sick.<sup>8</sup>



## RSV Information Hub

Learn more about RSV and protection options in Canada.

[praxushealth.ca/rsv-parents](https://praxushealth.ca/rsv-parents)



### References:

1. Mayo Clinic - Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

2. Public Health Agency of Canada - Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV): For health professionals

3. Burden of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Hospitalizations in Canada

4. Cleveland Clinic - RSV in Babies & Children

5. CDC - RSV Vaccine Guidance for Pregnant Women

6. CDC - RSV Immunization Guidance for Infants and Young Children

7. Comprehensive Summary of Safety Data on Nirsevimab in Infants and Children from All Pivotal Randomized Clinical Trials

8. NHS - RSV vaccine