



# Infant RSV

Letter writing toolkit

Advocating for expanded infant RSV  
protection options in Alberta and  
British Columbia



## MAKE AN IMPACT

# Take action for RSV equity

Most provinces and territories in Canada are providing expanded publically funded respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunizations to infants during the RSV season, but families in Alberta and British Columbia 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 to encourage them to advocate for investing in a publicly funded infant RSV protection program for their constituents.**

This toolkit provides information to help you learn about RSV and ready-to-use letter-writing materials to raise awareness about the equity gap in protection options in Alberta and British Columbia, including:

- [RSV Information Hubs for parents and providers with province-specific resources](#)
- [How to find your Member of the Legislative Assembly \(MLA\)](#)
- [Alberta: Letter of support templates to send to your MLA](#)
- [British Columbia: Letter of support templates to send to your MLA](#)



**Find your MLA, copy and paste the template of your choice, and email the letter addressed to your MLA signed with your name.**

# About Praxus Health

Praxus Health is a Canadian not-for-profit that works collaboratively with partners across sectors to drive meaningful healthcare change. From vaccine confidence to cancer screening and beyond, it delivers a wide-range of projects to improve health outcomes nationwide.

By engaging healthcare providers, researchers, and community groups, Praxus Health develops trusted resources that help Canadians make informed decisions about their health.

## Follow us on social media

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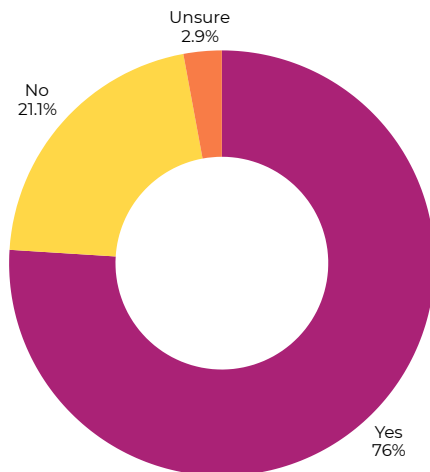
# Quick facts

In Canada:

- **RSV is the leading cause of hospital visits for infants with lung infections.**
- **2% of infants are hospitalized with RSV in their first year. In some remote communities, this can rise to 5–17%.**
- **There are protection options available to help reduce the risk for infants during RSV season.**

In 2024, Praxus Health completed a survey to understand RSV perceptions.

**Mothers have heard of RSV and largely know what RSV is.**



**Very few mothers know that there is a maternal vaccine or an infant immunization.**



## RESOURCES

# RSV Information Hubs

We've created easy-to-use information hubs to help parents and healthcare providers learn more about infant RSV and the protection options available across Canada. Our hubs are designed to make navigating RSV protection easier, with up-to-date resources tailored to each province.



## Parent Information Hub

**RSV INFORMATION HUB**

### Prepared. From Day One.

#### What Parents Need to Know About RSV

Navigating RSV protection can feel overwhelming, especially during your baby's first cold and flu season. This hub offers trusted resources from healthcare providers, answers to common questions, and guidance to help you understand the risks of RSV and explore options to help protect your family.

[Learn About Protection Options](#)

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### What is RSV?

RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is a common virus that infects the lungs and airways. Most children will have RSV by the time they're two. In healthy adults and older kids, it usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms—but in babies, it can lead to serious illness.

In Canada, around 2% of infants are hospitalized with RSV in their first year. In some communities, this can rise to 5-7%.

#### WHY IS RSV A CONCERN FOR BABIES?

**DEVELOPING LUNGS & IMMUNE SYSTEMS**

RSV can be more serious for babies—especially those born premature or with weaker immune systems—because their lungs and immune

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



## Healthcare Provider Information Hub

**RSV INFORMATION HUB**

### Supporting RSV Conversations with Patients

RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization for infants under one in Canada. In Canada, around 2% of infants are hospitalized with RSV in their first year. In some remote communities, this can rise to 5-7%.

Healthcare providers play a key role in helping families understand the risks and explore protection options.

This hub offers up-to-date tools to support important conversations with patients.

[RSV Protection by Province](#)

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### Welcome to the RSV Information Hub

With both maternal vaccines and infant immunization products now available in Canada, it's important to understand the timing, differences, and what's offered in your province or territory—so you can support informed decision making around RSV protection with your patients.

This hub will be updated as new information and protection programs become available in Canada.

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

# Find your MLA

Writing to your MLA can make a real difference. Your voice helps raise awareness of the RSV equity gap, shows community support, and encourages action to ensure infants in your community have equal protection.

Enter your postal code using the links below to find your MLA:



[Find your MLA in Alberta](#)



[Find your MLA in British Columbia](#)

**Once you find your MLA, click on their contact information and locate their email address.**

**Address the letter of support to your MLA.**



# Your voice matters

If RSV protection matters to you, you are a valuable voice. Here are just a few examples of how you can describe your role in the community:

- A new grandparent
- An expecting parent
- A parent of young children
- A concerned grandparent
- An aunt, uncle, or family caregiver
- A teacher or childcare worker
- A concerned citizen who cares about infant health

***In your letter template of choice, simply adapt the [role in community] line to resonate with your experiences so your MLA understands why this issue matters to you.***

***e.g. “As a new grandparent in your riding, I am writing...”***



# Alberta

Letter of support templates to send to  
Alberta MLAs



## AB Letter Template

# Template 1 - Family experience with RSV

**Subject:** We need RSV protection in our community

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

As a constituent of your riding, I am writing not just as a parent, but as someone who has lived through the terrifying experience of infant RSV. My child was hospitalized with RSV as an infant, and I will never forget the fear of seeing them struggling to breathe, hooked up to oxygen, fighting a virus that could have been prevented.

RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada, yet here in Alberta, access to RSV immunizations remains limited. Families in our province should not have to endure the trauma of hospitalization when safe and effective prevention is available. Provinces and territories nationwide have already taken steps to provide expanded RSV protection, and I hope to see the same leadership in Alberta. A baby's chance at protection should not depend on their postal code.

This aligns with the Premier's recent commitment to review vaccination policies to ensure publicly funded programs target those most at risk of serious illness, and to explore expanding funding for additional vaccines that protect vulnerable populations—like infants facing RSV.

This is an opportunity for Alberta to demonstrate leadership by prioritizing infant health. By expanding access to RSV immunizations, we can reduce strain on our healthcare system, support families, and ensure our province is aligned with the best practices already adopted nationwide. Every year that action is delayed, more infants face needless suffering, more families experience trauma, and our hospitals bear the weight of avoidable admissions.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I encourage you to consider this a priority in the months ahead to ensure families in Alberta are not left waiting for the RSV protection they deserve.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

**Copy and Paste the template  
above and send to your MLA**

## AB Letter Template

# Template 2 - Member of the community

**Subject:** Prioritize RSV protection for infants

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

As a **[role in community]** in your riding, I am writing to share my strong support for expanding access to RSV protection for infants in Alberta.

RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada, and every winter, families in our community live in fear that their child can become gravely ill. These hospitalizations are now preventable. Safe and effective RSV protections exist, yet access in Alberta remains limited.

Provinces and territories nationwide have already expanded RSV protection, reassuring families that their youngest members are better protected from preventable hospitalizations. Families in Alberta deserve that same reassurance--parents here should not have to face the trauma of seeing their baby hospitalized simply because of where we live.

This aligns with the Alberta government's mandate to review and strengthen vaccine policies for those at the highest risk of severe outcomes, including assessing the value of funding additional vaccines that protect at-risk groups such as infants. This is an opportunity for Alberta to demonstrate leadership by prioritizing infant health. By expanding access to RSV immunizations, we can reduce the strain on our overburdened healthcare system, support families, and ensure our province is aligned with the best practices already adopted nationwide.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I encourage you to consider this a priority in the months ahead to ensure families in Alberta are not left waiting for the RSV protection they deserve.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

**Copy and Paste the template  
above and send to your MLA**

## AB Letter Template

# Template 3 - Member of the community

**Subject:** Prioritize RSV protection for infants

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

As a **[role in community]** in your riding, I am writing in strong support of expanding access to RSV protection for infants in Alberta.

Every RSV season, families in our community hold their breath, hoping their babies will stay safe. For many, that hope is shattered when their baby is admitted to the hospital, struggling to breathe, fighting a virus that could have been prevented.

RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada. These admissions are not only terrifying for families, but they are costly for our healthcare system and add immense pressure on emergency rooms and pediatric wards that are already stretched thin. Parents miss work, siblings miss school, and families in Alberta wonder why we are left behind while families in other provinces and territories already have expanded access to infant RSV protection.

As the Premier's recent mandate letter highlights, reviewing and expanding vaccination coverage for populations proven to be at substantial risk is a provincial priority. Expanding RSV protection for infants directly supports that goal. This is an opportunity for Alberta to demonstrate leadership by prioritizing infant health. By expanding access to RSV immunizations, we can reduce the strain on our overburdened healthcare system, support families, and ensure our province is aligned with the best practices already adopted nationwide.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I encourage you to consider this a priority in the months ahead to ensure families in Alberta are not left waiting for the RSV protection they deserve.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

**Copy and Paste the template  
above and send to your MLA**

## AB Letter Template

# Template 4 - Physician perspective

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

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

As a physician in your riding, I am urging you to address the inequities families here face when it comes to protecting their infants against RSV. Provinces and territories nationwide have already moved to expand access to RSV immunizations, while families in Alberta are left without the same level of protection.

This creates a profound equity gap. An infant in another province may be shielded from hospitalization, while an infant in Alberta faces unnecessary risk simply because of where they were born.

Every respiratory season, I see babies struggling to breathe because of RSV. These cases are preventable, and yet, families here are being asked to carry a heavier burden than families elsewhere in Canada. Expanding RSV immunizations would not only protect infants but also bring Alberta in line with national standards of care. This call to action reflects the Alberta government's stated commitment to review and enhance vaccination programs for populations at substantial risk and to consider funding new vaccines that prevent severe outcomes in these groups.

I strongly encourage you to consider RSV prevention as a priority commitment to strengthening healthcare for children and families in our community.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

**Copy and Paste the template  
above and send to your MLA**

## AB Letter Template

# Template 5 - Prenatal provider perspective

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

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

As a prenatal care provider practicing in your riding, I work closely with families during pregnancy and the newborn period. One of the most common concerns I hear from parents is how to keep their baby safe in the first months of life, when infants are most vulnerable to serious infections. RSV is one of the leading threats during this time and is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada.

These hospitalizations are now largely preventable, yet access to RSV protection in Alberta remains limited. This creates enormous stress for parents and places additional strain on our already overburdened healthcare system. It is especially difficult to counsel families when I know that in other provinces and territories, expanded RSV immunization programs are already protecting infants, while families in Alberta do not have the same access.

By expanding RSV immunizations in Alberta, we can close that gap, prevent unnecessary infant hospitalizations, and provide families with the reassurance they deserve. Parents should be confident that Alberta is doing everything possible to protect their children during those critical early months of life. This need is consistent with the Premier's mandate to ensure government-funded vaccines protect those most at risk and to evaluate expanding funding for additional immunizations for vulnerable groups, including infants.

I strongly encourage you to consider RSV prevention as a priority commitment to strengthening healthcare for children and families in our community.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

**Copy and Paste the template  
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# British Columbia

Letter of support templates to send to  
British Columbia MLAs



## BC Letter Template

# Template 1 - Family experience with RSV

**Subject:** We need RSV protection in our community

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

As a constituent of your riding, I am writing not just as a parent, but as someone who has lived through the terrifying experience of infant RSV. My child was hospitalized with RSV as an infant, and I will never forget the fear of seeing them struggling to breathe, hooked up to oxygen, fighting a virus that could have been prevented.

RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada, yet here in BC, access to RSV immunizations remains limited. Families in our province should not have to endure the trauma of hospitalization when safe and effective prevention is available. Provinces and territories nationwide have already taken steps to provide expanded RSV protection, and I hope to see the same leadership in BC. A baby's chance at protection should not depend on their postal code.

This is an opportunity for BC to demonstrate leadership by prioritizing infant health. By expanding access to RSV immunizations, we can reduce strain on our healthcare system, support families, and ensure our province is aligned with the best practices already adopted nationwide. Every year that action is delayed, more infants face needless suffering, more families experience trauma, and our hospitals bear the weight of avoidable admissions.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I encourage you to consider this a priority in the months ahead to ensure families in BC are not left waiting for the RSV protection they deserve.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

**Copy and Paste the template  
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# Template 2 - Member of the community

**Subject:** Prioritize RSV protection for infants

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

As a **[role in community]** in your riding, I am writing to share my strong support for expanding access to RSV protection for infants in BC.

RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada, and every winter, families in our community live in fear that their child can become gravely ill. These hospitalizations are now preventable. Safe and effective RSV protections exist, yet access in BC remains limited.

Provinces and territories nationwide have already expanded RSV protection, reassuring families that their youngest members are better protected from preventable hospitalizations. Families in BC deserve that same reassurance--parents here should not have to face the trauma of seeing their baby hospitalized simply because of where we live.

This is an opportunity for BC to demonstrate leadership by prioritizing infant health. By expanding access to RSV immunizations, we can reduce the strain on our overburdened healthcare system, support families, and ensure our province is aligned with the best practices already adopted nationwide.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I encourage you to consider this a priority in the months ahead to ensure families in BC are not left waiting for the RSV protection they deserve.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

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## BC Letter Template

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As a **[role in community]** in your riding, I am writing in strong support of expanding access to RSV protection for infants in BC.

Every RSV season, families in our community hold their breath, hoping their babies will stay safe. For many, that hope is shattered when their baby is admitted to the hospital, struggling to breathe, fighting a virus that could have been prevented.

RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in Canada. These admissions are not only terrifying for families, but they are costly for our healthcare system and add immense pressure on emergency rooms and pediatric wards that are already stretched thin. Parents miss work, siblings miss school, and families in BC wonder why we are left behind while families in other provinces and territories already have expanded access to infant RSV protection.

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Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I encourage you to consider this a priority in the months ahead to ensure families in BC are not left waiting for the RSV protection they deserve.

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I strongly encourage you to consider RSV prevention as a priority commitment to strengthening healthcare for children and families in our community.

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These hospitalizations are now largely preventable, yet access to RSV protection in BC remains limited. This creates enormous stress for parents and places additional strain on our already overburdened healthcare system. It is especially difficult to counsel families when I know that in other provinces and territories, expanded RSV immunization programs are already protecting infants, while families in BC do not have the same access.

By expanding RSV immunizations in BC, we can close that gap, prevent unnecessary infant hospitalizations, and provide families with the reassurance they deserve. Parents should be confident that BC is doing everything possible to protect their children during those critical early months of life.

I strongly encourage you to consider RSV prevention as a priority commitment to strengthening healthcare for children and families in our community.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your City/Town]**

**[Your Postal Code]**

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# Questions?

Email our team at:  
[hello@praxushealth.ca](mailto:hello@praxushealth.ca)

