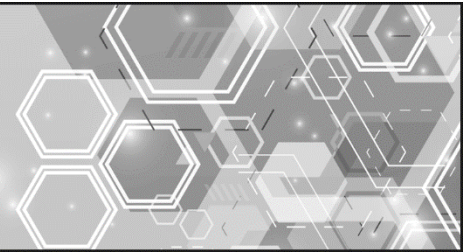




Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccines

What is it?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines protect against a serious respiratory virus. RSV causes illness in the lungs, especially in babies, young children, and older adults. For more information, see [Facts about... Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\)](#).

There are three publicly funded (free) RSV products available in Ontario:

- **Arexvy®** is a vaccine available for eligible adults 60 years of age and older.
- **Abrysvo®** is a vaccine available for eligible adults 60 years of age and older and pregnant individuals.
- **Beyfortus®** is a medication available for eligible infants and high-risk children.

How effective is the vaccine?

- Beyfortus® can reduce hospitalizations in babies by 83% to 84%.
- Abrysvo® when administered to pregnant individuals, can reduce hospital admissions in babies by 57% to 82% and reduce lung infections by 54% to 64% during their first RSV season.
- All RSV vaccines provide good protection against severe RSV illness, including hospitalization in adults 60 years of age and older.

What is the schedule for the RSV vaccine?

- RSV vaccines are given as a single dose during the fall respiratory season to eligible babies, high-risk children less than 24 months and pregnant individuals 28-36 weeks gestation. It is given year-round for adults 75 years of age and older and those 60 years of age and older who meet eligible criteria.
- RSV vaccines can be given at the same time as other vaccines, including live vaccines.

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If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



Who should get the RSV vaccine?

Arexvy® and Abrysvo®	Beyfortus®	Abrysvo®
• People 75 years of age and older. • People 60 to 74 years of age AND: ○ Live in long-term care homes, eldercare lodges or retirement homes including similar settings (e.g., co-located facilities). ○ Are in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC) and similar settings. ○ Have glomerulonephritis (GN) who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. ○ Have had a hematopoietic stem cell transplant within the last two years or with ongoing immunosuppression. ○ On home oxygen or requiring ongoing oxygen therapy, regardless of residence. ○ Recipients of solid organ transplants. ○ Are receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. ○ Are experiencing homelessness. ○ Identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis.	• Infants born April 1 or after and less than 8 at the time of immunization. • Children less than 24 months of age at risk for severe RSV disease through their second season, following discussion with a health care provider.	• Pregnant individuals from 28 to 36 weeks gestation who will deliver during the RSV season, following a discussion with a health care provider. 28 to prior to 32 weeks is given at the sole discretion of the health care provider.

People aged 60 years and older who are not eligible for the publicly funded (free) RSV vaccine can get the vaccine at a pharmacy with a prescription from their primary care provider. People who get the RSV vaccine at their local pharmacy will need to pay out of pocket.

If someone has previously received a dose of Arexvy® or Abrysvo® they **do not need** to receive another dose this season. Booster doses are not currently recommended.

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

People who have a known hypersensitivity or history of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous RSV vaccine or to any part of the vaccine should not get the RSV Vaccine.

Are there side effects with the vaccine?

- Common side effects are redness and pain where the needle was given, tiredness, fever, headache, nausea, diarrhea, and muscle or joint pain lasting only a few days.
- If you think you are having a serious reaction, see a health care provider right away. Any new or important changes in your health or your child's health after a vaccine should be reported to a health care provider and the Health Department at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.
- For more information, visit [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) - Region of Durham](#).

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