

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

What is happening?

- Ontario expanded the high-risk infant RSV prevention program to include ALL infants, and children up to 24 months old who are at high-risk of severe illness, and pregnant individuals. [Ontario Enhancing Protections for More People Throughout Fall Respiratory Illness Season | Ontario Newsroom](#)

What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

- [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#) is a major cause of lower respiratory illness affecting the lungs and airways, particularly among infants, young children, and older adults.
- RSV often causes cold-like symptoms and is the most common cause of bronchiolitis, a chest infection that affects infants and toddlers.
- Individuals are most likely to catch RSV when the virus is most active. The RSV season in Canada is generally from November to April.
- Immunizations can help reduce the chances of severe illness and hospital visits caused by RSV.

What do you need to know?

- The recommended approach for RSV prevention is administering Beyfortus® to infants, rather than receiving the vaccine during pregnancy. The RSV monoclonal antibody provides ready-made antibodies for immediate protection.
- The RSV vaccine, Abrysvo™, is available for pregnant individuals between 32 and 36 weeks of gestation and who do not wish to or are not able to protect their infant using the monoclonal antibody.

Where is it available?

- Infants born during the 2024-25 RSV season (November to April) will be offered Beyfortus® in hospital before discharge.
- Infants, children up to 24 months old at high-risk of severe illness and eligible pregnant individuals can receive their immunization from their health care providers during the 2024-25 RSV season.
- Peel Public Health offers RSV monoclonal antibody (Beyfortus®) clinics for infants under 12 months of age.

Where can I find more information?

Peel Public Health's [RSV page](#) includes fact sheets and where to go to get immunized. You can also visit [Protect yourself in fall and winter](#) or call Peel Public Health Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 905-799-7700, toll free 1-888-919-7800.