



For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, October 22, 2024)

RSV Protection Available for Infants and High-Risk Children

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is pleased to offer a new immunization program to protect infants and high-risk children against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection this fall season.

RSV is a major cause of respiratory illness among infants and young children. It often causes a mild illness, however, some infants and young children can develop severe infections and need to be treated in hospital. RSV season typically runs from November to April.

Eligible infants and high-risk children include those who are:

- Ontario residents and born in 2024 prior to the RSV season
- Ontario residents born during the 2024-2025 RSV season
- Born or being medically cared for in Ontario during the RSV season
- Children up to 24 months of age [who remain vulnerable](#) from severe RSV disease through their second RSV season

Infant immunization with Beyfortus® is the preferred way to protect infants against RSV infection. However, an RSV vaccine (Abrysvo®) is also available to people who are pregnant to protect their newborn against RSV. Generally, only one product is needed to protect infants. Pregnant people should speak to their healthcare provider before receiving Abrysvo®.

"RSV immunization is recommended for infants entering their first RSV season to protect them during the crucial early weeks and months, when they are most vulnerable to severe RSV infections," states Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU.

RSV immunization is available through your healthcare provider, RCDHU (by appointment only), and **prior to discharge from a labour and delivery unit in hospital.**

For more information on the Infant and High-Risk Children RSV prevention program, visit the provincial [Respiratory Syncytial Virus webpage](#). To book an immunization

appointment with RCDHU, call 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004. To stay up to date on all things related to respiratory illness, visit www.rcdhu.com.

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