

# Protecting your child from RSV

## What is RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a major cause of respiratory illness that affects the airway and lungs, especially in babies and young children.

RSV often causes cold-like symptoms and is the most common cause of a chest infection called bronchiolitis. Babies and young children often have mild illness from RSV and recover quickly. Some babies and young children may develop a severe infection that leads to hospitalization and is life-threatening.

RSV spreads easily from person to person and is most active from late fall to early spring. You and your child can get RSV by having direct contact with a person or surface infected with RSV. You can also get it by being around someone infected by RSV who is coughing or sneezing.



## How and when can I protect my newborn from RSV?

We recommend your child receive Nirsevimab (Beyfortus), **a one-time injection, as soon as possible after birth.** This treatment provides protection and immunity against RSV immediately. Nirsevimab offers the best protection for 6 months after it is given, when your child is most vulnerable. If your child is at continued high risk for RSV, talk to your health-care provider about additional protection next RSV season as well.



Excerpted from **Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health**



## Where can my child get immunized?

It is recommended that Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) be **given at the hospital before your baby is discharged home after birth.** Nirsevimab can also be given to your baby by your primary care provider or through your local public health unit. For young children that are eligible, Nirsevimab may be given at your pediatrician's or primary care provider's office, as well as through outpatient hospital clinics. It is also available through the Vaccinate and Up-to-Date initiative of Kids Come First (see other side).

# My RSV immunization information

Baby's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Current RSV immunization status is:

- Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) (RSV antibody for infants) was given on: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date) *recommended option*
- RSVpreF (RSV vaccine for pregnant people) was given during pregnancy at least 2 weeks before birth
- My child has no known protection against RSV. Contact your health-care provider or local public health unit to get immunized against RSV.

**RSV and other routine immunizations are available through the Vaccinate and Up-to-Date initiative from Kids Come First**

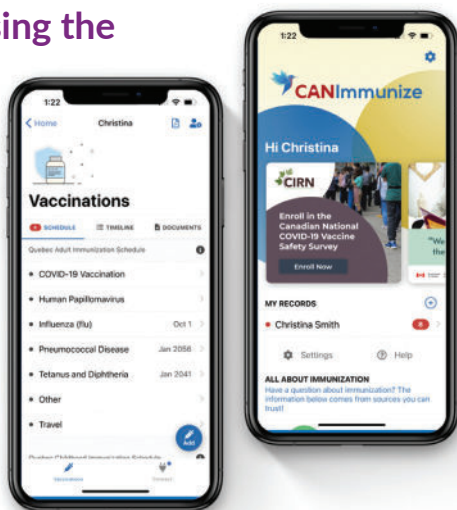


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<https://www.kidscomefirst.ca/en/kids-come-first/vaccinate-and-up-to-date.aspx>

## Helpful links

Start your child's immunization card on your phone using the CanImmunize app:



Visit the Ontario Ministry of Health's RSV website for more information:



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