

Products available in Canada to protect against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

Product	Date approved for use in Canada	Product type	Administered by	Approved for
Palivizumab (refer to note #1)	June 2002	monoclonal antibody medication (refer to note #2)	injection	Newborns, infants, and children up to 2 years of age who are at risk for severe RSV infection (such as those born prematurely or who have a chronic lung disease)
Nirsevimab (refer to notes #1 & #5)	April 2023	monoclonal antibody medication (refer to note #2)	injection	Newborns and infants who were born during, or who will be experiencing their first, RSV season (fall and winter in Canada) Children up to 2 years of age who are at risk for severe RSV infection during their second RSV season (such as those who are immunocompromised or those who have a chronic lung disease)
RSVPreF3	August 2023	vaccine	injection	Adults 50 years of age and older (refer to note #3)
mRNA-1345	November 2024	vaccine	injection	Adults 60 years of age and older (refer to note #3)
RSVpreF	December 2023	vaccine	injection	Adults 60 years of age and older People who are 32 to 36 weeks pregnant (refer to notes #3, #4, & #5)

*Product availability, and the eligibility criteria for receiving palivizumab, nirsevimab, and the RSV vaccines vary by province and territory.

Note #1: Palivizumab and nirsevimab are **not** used to treat children **already infected with RSV**. Rather, these monoclonal antibody medications are used to prevent severe RSV infection in infants and young children who may become infected with the virus in the future. These medications are **not vaccines**.

Note #2: Monoclonal antibodies are proteins designed to act like the **antibodies** your immune system produces. **Antibodies** are proteins produced by your body that help eliminate germs and harmful substances, such as bacteria and viruses, that enter your body. The **monoclonal antibodies used in palivizumab and nirsevimab** provide temporary protection against RSV by targeting the virus to help prevent severe infection. **Nirsevimab** provides protection to infants for at least the first **5 months of life** when administered **at birth**.

Note #3: Considerations are ongoing regarding additional groups who may be offered RSV vaccines in the future. This factsheet will be updated accordingly.

Note #4: Getting the RSV vaccine prompts your immune system to produce protective proteins called antibodies that **specifically protect against RSV infection**. When you get immunized against RSV during pregnancy, you pass on some of these antibodies **to your baby** in the womb (*in utero*). The transfer of antibodies gives your baby **short-term protection** against the severe effects of RSV for up to 6 months after birth.

Note #5: In provinces and territories where both nirsevimab and RSVpreF are available, pregnant individuals will be asked to **choose between receiving the RSV vaccine during pregnancy, or having nirsevimab administered to their newborn**. Talk to your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, midwife, or local public health office about which option will be best for you and your newborn.

Note #6: The RSV vaccine is administered as a single dose. There is currently not enough data to determine how long its protection lasts. For this reason, the RSV vaccine is primarily recommended for those at highest risk of severe infection—specifically, adults aged 75 and older, and adults aged 60 and older residing in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities. If you are 50 to 74 years of age, talk to your healthcare professional to determine if getting the RSV vaccine before 75 years of age would be beneficial for you.