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 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.