

October 2026

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infant Immunization

Nirsevimab (Beyfortus®)

Immunization Benefits

Nirsevimab is a medicine that helps protect infants and young children from serious illness caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Nirsevimab is given as one injection before or during RSV season. It gives the child antibodies that help fight RSV. Nirsevimab is not a vaccine.

RSV season is usually from November to the end of March. Eligible children can receive nirsevimab starting in October. One dose provides protection for about six months.

Nirsevimab is recommended for:

- Eligible infants from birth to less than eight months of age.
- Some children under two years of age who are at higher risk of serious RSV illness.

Nirsevimab has been used in Ontario for more than two years. It has helped prevent serious illness and hospital stays in infants. It can be given at the same visit as other vaccines, including the flu vaccine.

Side Effects and Risks

Most side effects are mild and last only a few days. They may include:

- Redness, swelling or pain where the injection was given.
- A rash.
- Fever.

Get medical help right away if your child has a serious reaction. Then call Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600.

Who can get Nirsevimab

- Infants born on or after April 1, 2026 and less than eight months of age at the time of immunization.
- Children less than 24 months of age who are at high risk for severe RSV disease during their second season.

Talk to your child's health care provider to find out if your child is eligible.

If you received an RSV vaccine during pregnancy, your infant may only receive nirsevimab if the infant is at higher risk of serious RSV illness.

Children who should not get Nirsevimab:

- History of hypersensitivity or a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose or any component of the product.
- Delay receiving Beyfortus® if the child has a fever or an illness more serious than a cold.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV is a common virus that affects the nose, throat and lungs.

RSV can cause serious illness in infants and young children. It can also be more serious in older adults and people with weakened immune systems or certain health conditions. These conditions include asthma and long-term heart or lung disease.

For more information:

- Talk to your primary health care provider
- Contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600, or visit toronto.ca/RSV