INFANT RSV PROTECTION

NOVEMBER 2026 BLOG

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RSV Protect

Federation of Medical Women of Canada
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As we turn back the clocks here in Ontario, but are acutely aware that many regions, provinces and North American locations may choose different options, so we are aware that Canada does not respond uniformly to **the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) guidance.**
We tend to respond differently in different provinces as implementation of that national guidance remains provincial.

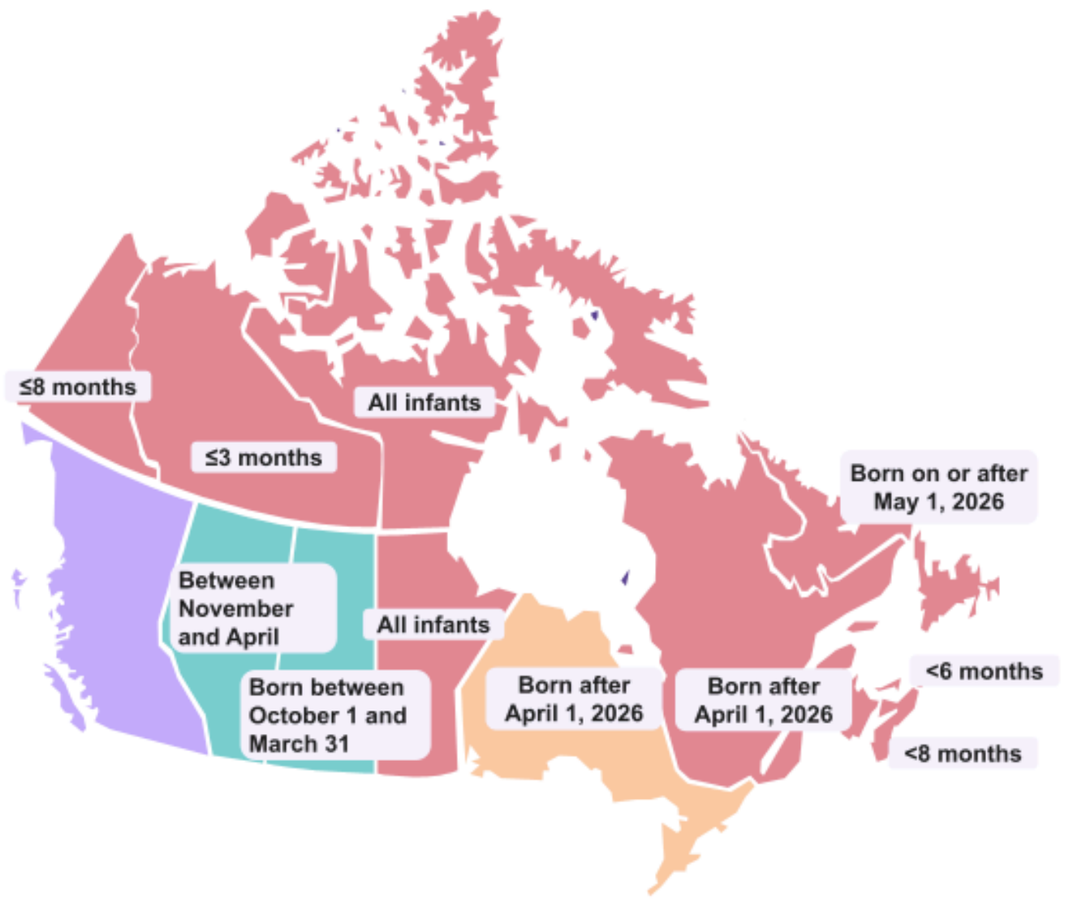
In fact, even the start of RSV season is seen differently in the East, with the focus being October 1, 2026 and the West, aiming for programs starting November 1, 2026.

So no surprise, coverage, insurance and eligibility remains heterogenous across the country.



Map of Canada demonstrating provincial/territorial programs for infant RSV Protection.

Publicly funded RSV Prevention Programs for Infants



Program Type

- Universal program for all infants with ABRYSVO or Beyfortus*
- Universal program for all infants with Beyfortus
- Seasonal program with Beyfortus
- High-risk Program with Beyfortus

*** Ontario:** ABRYSVO is available to pregnant residents from 28 to 36 weeks gestational age who will deliver during the RSV season.

References:
BC: 2026-2027 Infant RSV Program Eligibility Criteria| BC Infant RSV program_HCP QA
AB: Alberta Pediatric RSV Prevention Program; Respiratory virus season – Get vaccinated | Alberta.ca
SK: Saskatchewan RSV Program
MB: Vaccine Eligibility Manitoba
ON: Ontario - RSV prevention programs
QC: Quebec - Immunisation contre les infections par le VRS

NB: Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunization for infants - gnb.ca | respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-immunization-infants.pdf
NS: Important Information about RSV and the RSV Immunization for Babies and Young Children | 13212_2026_07_08.pdf | rsv-infant-immunization-information-healthcare-professionals.pdf
PEI: Flu, COVID-19, and RSV Vaccination | Government of Prince Edward Island
NL: Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) program; Provincial-Immunization-Manual-Policy-for-Immunization-with-RSV-Vaccine.pdf
NT: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) | HSS Professionals NT,
YK: YIP info sheets
NU: Specialized and Annual Immunization Protocols

British Columbia remains the only province that **covers only high risk infants with no universal program.**

Alberta recently started a seasonal program for **all infants, born between November and April. There is no catch-up program for infants born outside these dates.** This means a baby born in September for example, would not be immunized in Alberta but would be immunized in **Ontario or Quebec.**

Our risk of disease should not depend on our postal code.

- ***Ontario*** is the only province offering either the monoclonal antibody, namely Beyfortus at this time (Enflonsia not yet available) or immunization for the pregnant person, with the RSVpreF vaccine, Abrsyvo.

- Importantly, **NACI** now suggests **maternal immunization any time between 28 to 36 weeks gestation** as the research shows the earlier the immunization maternally, the better response in the newborn. That data, from real world studies in a number of countries is entirely reassuring.

- **NACI** goes on to update their guidance and in the latest update, April 2026, states there is no preferential option as both maternal immunization and infant immunization provide excellent coverage.

- **NACI** recommends that RSVpreF can be given from 28 to 36 weeks gestation. RSVpreF vaccine is authorised in Canada at 32 to 36 weeks. This off-label recommendation from NACI is supported by safety and efficacy data, supports broader access and opportunities for immunization, and aligns with recommendations by the World Health Organization.

- All authorized RSV immunization products have evidence to demonstrate the ability to prevent severe RSV disease and meet high safety standards.



- So while we have options, good guidance and an opportunity to protect infants, **we still need vigilance to follow up all infants in the community after their birth,** confirming their immunization status.

- Depending on the province, the season and the timing of the visit, there may be **a wonderful opportunity to catch up if an infant has missed the immunization.**

- We need to **advocate for full universal coverage** and use the common everyday “well baby check”, to be proactive and value this prevention.

- Our recommendation matters and our lack of recommendation is a serious oversight.

Most parents want RSV protection in pregnancy, but a provider recommendation drives uptake

79%
of Canadian survey respondents prefer RSV vaccination in pregnancy

30.5%
actual maternal RSVpreF uptake in the US, 2023–24 season

70%
of US infants were protected by either product in 2024–25

Every pregnancy, every visit: what HCPs can do

- Ask about pregnancy and due date; **recommend RSVpreF from 28 weeks** when birth is expected during RSV season
- Aim to vaccinate **at least 14 days before delivery**, earlier in the window when feasible
- If vaccination is missed or late, tell families their infant can still get a monoclonal antibody *depends on the province where they live
- Record the dose and share it with the prenatal care provider so the infant's team knows

McClymont E, et al. Vaccine. 2025;50:126818. Gagnon D, et al. Vaccine. 2025;55:127062. Razzaghi H, et al. Vaccine. 2026;88:128823. Trusinska D, et al. EClinicalMedicine. 2025;84:103281. National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). Updated guidance to protect infants and children from RSV disease. Public Health Agency of Canada; April 10, 2026.

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