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Alaska RSV Immunization Recommendations and Seasonality

Summary

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) causes seasonal epidemics of respiratory illness in Alaska and across the United States. RSV-related pneumonia disproportionately affects infants and older adults.¹ This *Bulletin* provides summary recommendations and updated guidance on administration timing for Alaska’s RSV season.

Immunizations Available

RSV vaccines available for older adults:

- One mRNA vaccine: mResvia (Moderna)
- Two protein subunit vaccines: Arexvy (GSK) and Abrysvo (Pfizer)²

Monoclonal antibodies available for infants:

- Nirsevimab (Beyfortus™, Sanofi Pasteur): stored refrigerated, with a shelf life of 36 months and stability at room temperature for up to 48 hours. Administration is based on weight and is recommended for infants younger than 8 months entering their first RSV season, and certain children 8–19 months of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease entering their second RSV season.
- Clesrovimab (Enflonsia™, Merck) stored refrigerated, with a shelf life of 30 months and stability at room temperature for up to 48 hours. It is administered as a single intramuscular dose and is recommended for infants younger than 8 months entering their first RSV season.³

Vaccine Recommendations for Adults

The vaccination recommendations for adults remain unchanged since April 2025.^{2,4} The RSV vaccine for adults is not currently an annual vaccine.

- All adults aged ≥75 years should receive a single lifetime dose of any RSV vaccine (Abrysvo, Arexvy, or mResvia).
- Adults aged 50–74 years at increased risk for severe RSV should receive a single lifetime dose of any RSV vaccine. This includes persons with chronic heart, lung, kidney, liver, neurologic, or blood disease, diabetes with complications or requiring insulin or SGLT-2 inhibitors, severe obesity, moderate or severe immunocompromise, or other chronic medical conditions or risks as determined by a clinician; residents of nursing homes; and residents of rural or remote communities.²
- A single dose of Abrysvo (Pfizer) maternal RSV vaccine is recommended during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy, administered September through April.

RSV Deaths

During the 2025–26 season, there were nine Alaska residents with death certificates where RSV was listed as a contributing or underlying cause of death. This included one child who was not eligible for monoclonal administration during the season.

Monoclonal Antibody Recommendations for Infants

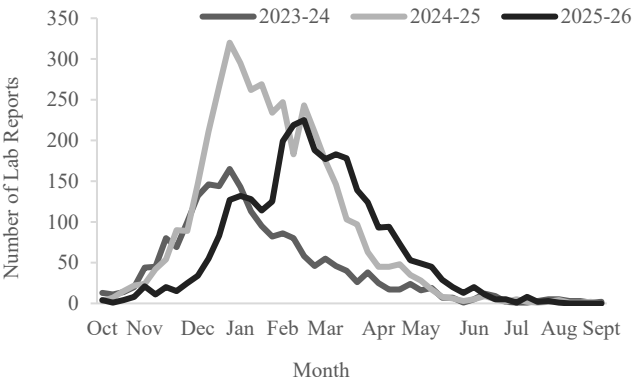
RSV immunization administration is recommended October through May to best align with Alaska’s seasonal trends in RSV circulation (Figure). Health care providers may use clinical judgement and administer outside of these months if there are concerns that the infant might not return for an immunization or if RSV continues to circulate. Monoclonal antibodies provide protection for at least 5 months, with some recent studies suggesting protection may last for 6–12 months.^{5–7}

One dose of nirsevimab or clesrovimab is recommended for all infants aged <8 months whose mother was not vaccinated during

pregnancy. This dose should be given within the first week of life during RSV season or early during the RSV season.^{3,8}

One additional dose of nirsevimab is recommended for children aged 8–19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease; doses should be separated by at least 6 months. Children at increased risk include those born preterm; those with Down syndrome; those with chronic lung disease requiring medical support; those with cystic fibrosis and severe lung disease; those with severe immunocompromise; and all Alaska Native and American Indian children.^{4,9} Clesrovimab is not approved for children aged 8 months or older.

Figure. RSV Laboratory Reports by Season and Week — Alaska, October–August 2023–24 through 2025–26



Availability

Pharmacies, health care clinics, and other facilities may offer RSV immunizations. RSV immunizations are available through private purchase, the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program (AVAP). VacTrAK does not forecast immunizations for patients with underlying conditions, such as adults aged 50–74 years or children eligible for a second-season dose.

Coadministration, Precautions, and Contraindications

RSV immunizations can be given at the same time as other vaccines.¹⁰ Moderate or severe acute illness is a precaution to vaccination; those with a minor acute illness with or without fever can be immunized.¹¹ Vaccines are contraindicated for persons with a history of severe allergic reaction to a vaccine component.

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