

January 26, 2024

IHS Extends Administration of Maternal RSV Vaccine for the 2023-2024 Season

On January 26, 2024, Indian Health Service Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Loretta Christensen extended the recommended dates for administration of maternal respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) Vaccine for pregnant American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people to protect newborn infants from RSV during the 2023-2024 respiratory virus season. Due to sustained high rates of RSV in many tribal communities throughout Indian Country and increased risk of AI/AN infants for serious RSV illness, eligible AI/AN people who are 32-36 weeks pregnant should continue to be offered one dose of Pfizer's bivalent RSVpreF vaccine (Abrysvo™) through the end of February 2024.

Background:¹

RSV is a common cause of respiratory infection in U.S. infants, most of whom are infected with RSV during their first year of life. RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization among U.S. infants. The highest incidence of RSV-associated hospitalization occurs in infants aged <3 months and then decreases with increasing age. Because of the high incidence of severe RSV disease in the first months of life, RSV prevention products focus on passive immunization of infants through maternal immunization or immunoprophylaxis with monoclonal antibodies.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers:²

- Providers should encourage pregnant people to receive RSVpreF vaccine (Abrysvo™, Pfizer) during 32 weeks' gestation through 36 weeks and 6 days' gestation to prevent RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease in infants.
- Either RSVpreF vaccination or nirsevimab (Beyfortus™) immunization for infants is recommended to prevent RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease in infants, but [administration of both products](#) is not needed for most infants.
- In most of the continental U.S., pregnant people should receive RSV vaccine from September through January so that their babies are protected against severe RSV disease at birth.
- However, RSV seasons can vary in different parts of the U.S. Local, state, and territorial health departments can determine the best times to start and stop administration of RSV vaccines in their jurisdictions. This is especially important in Alaska, parts of Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, where RSV seasonality can be different from most of the continental U.S.

Clinician Resources:

- ACOG: [Practice Advisory: Maternal Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccination](#)
- FDA: [Abrysvo Prescribing Information](#)
- MMWR: [Use of the Pfizer Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine During Pregnancy for the Prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Associated Lower Respiratory Tract Disease in Infants: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices- United States, 2023](#)

References:

1. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Respiratory Syncytial Virus](#). Published January 18, 2024.
2. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Healthcare Providers: RSV Vaccination For Pregnant People](#). Published September 29, 2024.