

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine FAQ 2023-2024 season

Question: What is RSV?

Answer: RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is a virus that causes respiratory illness and mild cold-like symptoms in healthy adults, but infections in infants and the elderly can be more serious and life-threatening, requiring hospitalization.

Question: When is the best time to get the RSV vaccine?

Answer: The best time to get the RSV vaccine is before the fall/winter season, when RSV normally peaks. However, normal RSV patterns became disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. So, it is recommended to get an RSV vaccine as they become available to you for the 2023/2024 season.

Question: Can I get an RSV vaccine and my other adult vaccines at the same time?

Answer: Yes, RSV vaccine may be administered with seasonal vaccines such as influenza and Covid-19 vaccines. There are data from coadministration studies showing that the common side effects, like fever and soreness, may be increased when influenza and RSV vaccines are administered the same day. While it is acceptable, research is ongoing to provide more guidance on coadministration with other adult vaccines.

Question: How does RSV spread?

Answer: RSV is spread through droplets in the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes and from direct contact with an infected person or an item contaminated by an infected person.

Question: What are common side effects of the RSV vaccine?

Answer: The most common side effects reported included pain, redness, and swelling in the vaccinated arm, fatigue, fever, headache, nausea, diarrhea, and muscle or joint pain. Side effects were mild.

Question: Where can I find the RSV vaccine?

Answer: Most retail pharmacies and doctor's offices will stock the RSV vaccine, find your in-network pharmacy and call, or go online for appointments at molinahealthcare.com

Question: How do I prevent RSV?

Answer: Vaccination can prevent RSV infection, as well as daily measures like coughing and sneezing into tissue or a shirt sleeve instead of hands, frequent hand washing, washing of touched surfaces, and avoiding close contact and sharing items with people.

Question: Who should get the RSV vaccine?

Answer: The CDC recommends a single RSV vaccine for anyone 60 years and older. RSV vaccination with Abrysvo is also recommended for pregnant women during weeks 32-36 within the RSV season.

Question: Should I get the RSV vaccine if I'm pregnant?

Answer: Yes, a single dose of the Abrysvo vaccine during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy is recommended to protect babies from severe infection.

Question: Should I receive if I'm less than 60 years old?

Answer: Vaccination is not currently recommended for people under 60 (with the exception of pregnant women during weeks 32-36) since illness would likely be mild and self-resolve within one to two weeks.

Question: Which RSV vaccines are available?

Answer: Abrysvo (Pfizer) and Arexvy (GSK) are the two available vaccines, the CDC does not preferentially recommend one over the other.

Question: How many doses should I receive of the RSV vaccine?

Answer: Both available vaccines are a single dose. Current data shows that the RSV vaccine provides protection for at least two seasons, research is ongoing to evaluate if additional doses will be needed.

Question: Who should NOT receive the RSV vaccine?

Answer: Anyone with severe hypersensitivity to the vaccine or any component should not receive the RSV vaccine. Vaccination may be postponed in people with severely suppressed immune systems and people with acute severe illness. RSV vaccination should be administered with caution in people with bleeding disorders and people taking anticoagulant medications.

Question: Who should get Beyfortus (nirsevimab-alip)?

Answer: Beyfortus is for neonates and infants born during or just prior to entering their first RSV season and pediatric patients up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.

Question: Can I get Beyfortus if I've had Synagis in the past?

Answer: Beyfortus can be administered to children under 24 months of age prior to or during their second RSV season who remain at risk of severe RSV illness if they received Synagis during their first RSV season.

Question: Does my insurance cover the RSV vaccine and Beyfortus?

Answer: See the information below for your specific plan or benefit / line of business.

State	Line of Business	Arexvy	Abrysvo	Beyfortus
All	Marketplace	Preventative tier Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Preventative tier	Non-formulary (coverage through medical benefit)
AZ	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
FL	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
IL	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
MI	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
MS	Medicaid	Check with state plan	Check with state plan	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
NV	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
SC	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
TX	Medicaid	Non-formulary	Non-formulary	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
UT	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
VA	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)
WA	Medicaid	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime Min. age of 60 years	Quantity Limit of 1 dose/lifetime	Non-formulary (coverage through Vaccines For Children program)

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunizations. August 30, 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/index.html#print>

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2. Melgar M, Britton A, Roper LE, et al. Use of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccines in Older Adults: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:793–801. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7229a4>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthcare Providers: RSV Vaccination for Adults 60 Years of Age and Over. August 30, 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/hcp/older-adults.html>
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5. Arexvy (respiratory syncytial virus vaccine), adjuvanted) [prescribing information]. Durham, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; May 2023.
6. Beyfortus (nirsevimab) [prescribing information]. Swiftwater, PA: Sanofi Pasteur, Inc; July 2023.
7. Synagis (palivizumab) [prescribing information]. Waltham, MA: Sobi Inc; November 2021.