

Queensland Health

RSV Immunisation (Abrysvo)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical
Services Toolkit – December 2024



**Queensland
Government**

Contents

Introduction	3
Background	3
Target audience	3
Key messages	4
For immunisation providers	4
For pregnant women and pregnant people	5
Updated messaging for RSV immunisation (nirsevimab)	6
Communication materials	6
RSV vaccination (Abrysvo) resources	7
Social media content	7
Poster	8
Factsheet	8
UPDATED RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) resources	9
Social media content	9
Posters	10
Other information	12
Web content	12
Easy Read resources	13

Introduction

This stakeholder kit has been developed to assist with communication of important information about the Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) immunisation program.

The toolkit includes key messages and communication materials that may assist you in sharing messages across your clinical network and to your patients.

By utilising your channels and networks, you are helping to increase and broaden the reach of audiences who will hear about the RSV Immunisation program.

Background

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common virus that can infect people of all ages. RSV can cause severe respiratory illnesses, like bronchiolitis, bronchitis or pneumonia. RSV is the most common cause of hospitalisation in infants and young children, with almost all children experiencing at least one RSV infection within their first 2 years of life.

New RSV vaccine for pregnant women and pregnant people

In November 2024, it was announced that the federal government would roll out Abrysvo across Australia in 2025, the RSV vaccination for pregnant women and pregnant people. However, from 1 December 2024, the Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program will be expanded to offer Abrysvo, an RSV vaccine administered to pregnant women and pregnant people during 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy.

The RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) will still be available for eligible infants.

Immunisation providers can access clinical guidance, consent forms and consumer information on the [Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program website](#).

Immunisation providers can direct parents and carers of newborns to the [Vaccination Matters website](#) for more information about RSV immunisation and eligibility.

Target audience

Primary audience:

- Pregnant First Nations women and pregnant people between 28 and 36 weeks gestation
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) providers administering the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) to pregnant women and pregnant people
- ACCHO providers administering the RSV vaccine (nirsevimab) to eligible infants and young children

Key messages

For immunisation providers

- From 1 December 2024, the Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program will be expanded to offer Abrysvo, a Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine administered to pregnant women and pregnant people during 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy.
- RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) is effective in protecting newborn infants against severe RSV disease from birth up to 6 months of age by transferring antibodies across the placenta.
- RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) should be administered at least 14 days before delivery to ensure the infant is protected against RSV at the time of birth.
- The RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) has been determined by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to be safe and effective. It was approved for use during pregnancy in Australia in March 2024.
- The RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) will still be available for eligible infants.
- Infants less than 8 months of age born in Queensland are recommended to receive RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) if:
 - they were born to a pregnant woman or pregnant person who **DID NOT** receive RSV vaccination (Abrysvo) during pregnancy, or
 - they were born to a pregnant woman or pregnant person who received an RSV vaccination less than 14 days before delivery, or
 - they have a condition associated with increased risk of severe RSV disease, or
 - they have suboptimal RSV antibodies.
- Immunisation providers can access clinical guidance and consent forms on the [Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program website](#).
- For more information for pregnant women and pregnant people, and parents and carers of newborns about RSV immunisation and eligibility, visit the [Vaccination Matters website](#).

Refer to clinical guidelines for dosing recommendations, benefits and safety messaging.

For pregnant women and pregnant people

- RSV is one of the most common causes of hospitalisation in infants and young children, with almost all children experiencing at least one RSV infection within the first 2 years of life.
- RSV can have a potentially significant impact on infants and young children, as well as their families. This program is focused on protecting infants from birth, as well as those at highest risk of severe disease in the first years of life.
- From 1 December 2024, pregnant women and pregnant people living in Queensland will have access to the RSV vaccination (Abrysvo) that can safely be given during pregnancy between 28 and 36 weeks gestation.
- When you receive the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) during pregnancy, your immune system produces antibodies to RSV. These antibodies are passed onto your unborn baby and helps protect them from RSV disease when they are born.
- RSV vaccination (Abrysvo) can protect your baby against severe RSV disease from birth up to 6 months of age.

Eligibility

RSV vaccine (Abrysvo)

- Pregnant women and pregnant people between 28 and 36 weeks pregnant, living in Queensland, are recommended to receive RSV vaccination (Abrysvo).
- You should get the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) at least 14 days before you give birth, so your baby is protected from RSV when they are born.

Safety and efficacy

- The RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) has been determined by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to be safe and effective. It was approved for use during pregnancy in Australia in March 2024.
- This RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) can be safely given at the same time as other vaccines that are routinely recommended during pregnancy, including influenza, COVID-19 and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines.

Call to action

- Talk to your health worker or doctor and book an appointment for RSV vaccination.
- Search [Vaccination Matters](#)

Updated messaging for RSV immunisation (nirsevimab)

Eligibility

RSV immunisation (nirsevimab)

- Your baby or infant may still be eligible for the RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) if the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) was not given during pregnancy, if they have a complex medical condition, or are born within 14 days of you receiving the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo).
- Your immunisation provider will be able to advise you if your baby is recommended to receive RSV immunisation (nirsevimab).
- If a pregnant woman or pregnant person does not receive an RSV vaccine (Abrysvo), newborn babies can receive an RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) in the hospital after they are born.

Call to action

- Talk to your health worker or doctor and book an appointment for RSV vaccination.
- Search [Vaccination Matters](#)

Communication materials

Communication materials are available for download from the **Queensland Health Asset Library** to support communication activities.

The following assets are included in this stakeholder kit:

- Social media content
- Posters
- Factsheets
- Web content

[Download RSV resources from the Queensland Health Asset Library collection](#)

RSV vaccination (Abrysvo) resources

Social media content

[Download here: Social tile](#)



Suggested caption:

Anyone can get RSV, but bubs and young children can get really sick.

They might need to go to hospital.

The best way to protect your bub is to get the RSV needle when you are between 28 and 36 weeks pregnant.

When you get the RSV needle, it protects your bub from getting very sick from RSV when they are born for up to 6 months.

Getting needles before having your bub is very important to keep them safe and healthy when they are born.

Talk to your health worker or doctor about RSV needles to protect your bub.

Poster

Download and print to display in patient areas.

[Download here: General](#)



Factsheet

This factsheet provides information to make an informed decision and consent for RSV vaccination (Abrysvo).

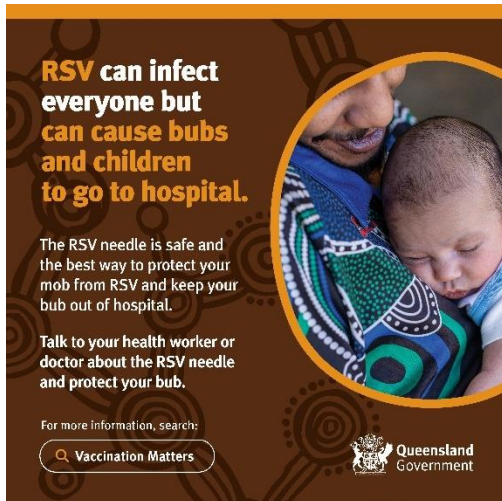
[Download here: Information about the RSV needle](#)



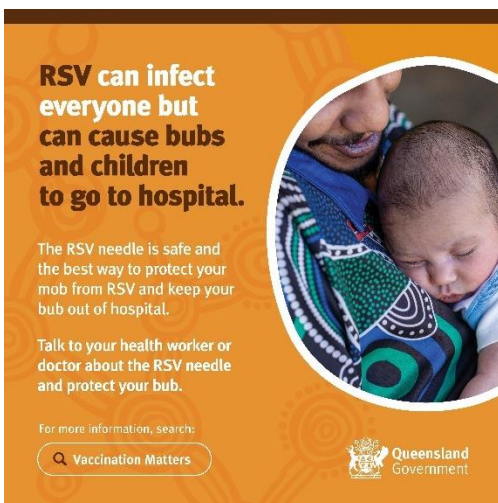
UPDATED RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) resources

Social media content

[Download here: Social tile](#)



[Download here: Social tile](#)



Suggested caption:

RSV can infect everyone, but can cause bubs and young children to get really sick.

Most people with RSV will recover quickly, but some bubs can become very sick and will need to go to hospital.

The RSV needle is safe and the best way to protect your mob from RSV and keep your bub out of hospital.

Some new bubs should have the RSV needle if mum hasn't had the RSV needle in pregnancy.

Talk to your health worker or doctor about the RSV needle to protect your bub.

Posters

Download and print these posters to display in patient areas.

[Download here: General](#)



Queensland Health

Protect your bub from RSV

RSV can infect everyone but bubs and young children can get really sick.

They might need to go to hospital and the effects from RSV can last a long time.

Some new bubs should have the RSV needle if mum hasn't had the RSV needle in pregnancy.

The RSV needle is safe and the best way to protect your mob from RSV and keep your bub out of hospital.

Talk to your health worker or doctor about needles.

For more information on RSV visit Vaccination Matters website

Queensland Government

[Download here: Signs of RSV](#)



Queensland Health

Protect your bub from RSV

RSV can infect everyone but can cause bubs and young children to go to hospital.

What are the signs of RSV?

Understanding the signs will help keep your bub safe. Look out for these signs in your bub:

- runny nose
- cough
- wheezing (noisy breathing)
- high temperature
- not hungry
- fussy baby or more sleepy than usual
- fast breathing or working hard to breathe

The RSV needle is safe and the best way to protect your mob from RSV and keep your bub healthy at home in community. Talk to your health worker or doctor about needles.

For more information on RSV visit Vaccination Matters website

Queensland Government

[Download here: Side effects](#)

Queensland Health

Protect your bub from RSV



RSV can infect everyone.

Most people will recover quickly from RSV, but bubs and young children can become very sick and may need to go to hospital.

The RSV needle is safe and the best way to protect your mob from RSV and keep your bub healthy at home in community.

Are there any side effects?

All medicine including needles can have side effects. Side effects are normally uncommon and mild. They could include:

-  redness or swelling where the needle went in
-  rash
-  mild fever

Talk to your health worker or doctor about needles.



For more information on RSV visit Vaccination Matters website



Other information

Web content

For clinicians

The Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention (QPRSV) Program website page includes important information about the program, eligibility, clinical guidelines, parent and carer information and vaccine ordering.

Visit the page here: [Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program](#)

The screenshot shows the Queensland Health website page for the Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program. The page features a navigation menu with categories like Public health & wellbeing, Clinical practice, Health system & governance, Careers, Research & reports, and Newsroom. The main content area is titled "Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program" and includes a sidebar with links to Immunisation, Immunisation Schedule Queensland, Registration and qualifications, Vaccine service provider information, School Immunisation Program, Healthcare worker vaccinations, Immunisation contacts, and Age of consent for vaccinations. The main text describes the program's purpose and provides information on when it will be available and how to access it.

For parents and carers

The Vaccination Matters website contains important information for parents and carers about the RSV immunisation and eligibility.

Visit the page here: [Vaccination Matters](#)

The screenshot shows the Vaccination Matters website page. The page features a navigation menu with categories like Why vaccinate, Who should get vaccinated and when, What to vaccinate against, Where to get vaccinated, Vaccination records, and Blog. The main content area is titled "Vaccination and immunisation" and includes a sub-header "Find out the difference between vaccination and immunisation and how they both help develop immunity to diseases." and a "Find out more" button. The page also features a large image of a family (a man, a woman, and a baby) smiling together.

Easy Read resources

The following Easy Read fact sheets explain the importance of immunisation and are also available in other languages. There are fact sheets for:

- [parents](#)
- [young adults](#)
- [older people](#)