

Queensland Health

RSV Vaccination (Abrysvo)

Immunisation Service Providers toolkit – December 2024



**Queensland
Government**

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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 pregnant women and pregnant people, and parents and carers of newborns to the [Vaccination Matters website](#) for more information about RSV immunisation and eligibility.

Target audience

- Immunisation providers administering the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) to pregnant women and pregnant people
- Pregnant women and pregnant people between 28 and 36 weeks gestation
- Immunisation providers administering the RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) to eligible infants and young children
- Parents and carers of infants and children who may be eligible for RSV immunisation (nirsevimab)

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, 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

- For more information speak to your immunisation provider about the recommended vaccines for you during pregnancy.
- 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

- For more information speak to your GP or immunisation provider about RSV Immunisation for your baby.
- 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:

- Posters
- Social media content
- Factsheets
- Newsletter content
- Web content

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

New RSV vaccination (Abrysvo) resources

Posters

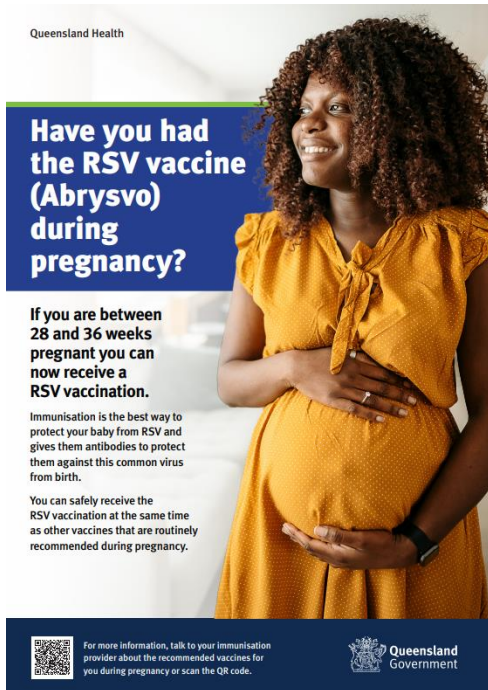
Download and print this poster to display in clinical areas.

[Download here: RSV immunisation \(Abrysvo\) poster for immunisation providers](#)



Download and print these posters to display in patient areas.

[Download here: RSV immunisation \(Abrysvo\) poster](#)



[Download here: RSV immunisation \(Abrysvo\) poster for First Nations](#)



Social media content

[Download here: General social tiles](#)



Suggested caption:

The RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) is now available in Queensland.

If you are between 28 and 36 weeks pregnant, you can now receive the RSV vaccine so your baby is protected from RSV when they are born.

You can receive the RSV vaccination at the same time as other vaccines that are routinely recommended during pregnancy.

For more information speak to your immunisation provider about the recommended vaccines for you during pregnancy.

[Download here: Social tile for First Nations women](#)



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.

Factsheets

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

[Download here: General factsheet](#)

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RSV immunisation (Abrysvo)

Information for pregnant women and pregnant people



What is RSV?
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common virus that can affect people of all ages.
RSV can cause a range of respiratory illnesses, from mild colds to severe conditions like bronchitis or pneumonia.

Symptoms might include:

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

Who can get RSV?
Anyone can get RSV, but it is one of the most common causes of hospitalisation in infants and young children.
Almost all children will experience at least one RSV infection within the first 2 years of life.



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Is Abrysvo safe?

Yes. Abrysvo is a safe and effective vaccine that reduces the risk of severe RSV infection in newborn babies for up to 6 months from birth.

Abrysvo can be safely given at the same time as other vaccines that are routinely recommended during pregnancy, including influenza, pertussis (whooping cough) and COVID-19.

Does my baby still need to get the RSV immunisation (nirsevimab)?

Nirsevimab is a RSV immunisation that protects babies and young children from severe RSV disease.

If Abrysvo was given during pregnancy, newborn babies are not usually recommended to receive the RSV immunisation as well.

All babies born without protection from the Abrysvo vaccine given during pregnancy are recommended to receive nirsevimab at birth.

Your immunisation provider will be able to advise you if your child is recommended to receive nirsevimab.

How can I find out more information?

For more information, talk to your immunisation provider or scan the QR code




[Download here: Factsheet for First Nations women](#)

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Protect your bub from RSV

What is RSV?
RSV stands for Respiratory Syncytial Virus. It is a disease that can make your bub very sick.

Symptoms might include:

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

Who can get RSV?
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.




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Does my bub need to get a needle as well?

If you get the RSV needle, your bub probably won't need to get the RSV needle.


If you don't get the RSV needle during pregnancy, or at the right time, your bub might need to get the RSV needle when they are born.

How can I find out more information?

Is the needle safe?
The RSV needle is safe and the best way to keep your bub out of hospital.
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.

Can I have it with other needles?
Yes, the RSV needle is safe to get with other needles you get during pregnancy.
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 and protect your bub.
For more information on RSV, visit Vaccination Matters website.



Scan the QR code to learn more about RSV Immunisation

Vaccination Matters



Newsletter content

Subject: Changes to the Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program

There have been important changes made to the Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program.

Queensland will introduce the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) program from 1 December 2024. This expanded approach will further protect the state's newborn infants and young children against serious RSV disease.

The RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) can be offered to all pregnant women and pregnant people living in Queensland between 28 and 36 weeks of pregnancy. When administered during pregnancy, the vaccine provides protection to newborn infants from birth up to 6 months.

If a person receives the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) during pregnancy, their newborn baby is not usually recommended to receive nirsevimab.

Clinicians can access an updated version of the clinical guidelines and information about infant eligibility for nirsevimab online:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/paediatric-rsv-prevention-program>

Updated RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) resources

Posters

Download and print this poster to display in clinical areas.

[Download here: RSV Nirsevimab Dosing Recommendations](#)

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RSV Nirsevimab Dosing Recommendations

- The recommended dose for infants and young children is weight and age dependent.
- Nirsevimab is given as a single dose.
- Note the dosing weight refers to an infant's or young child's weight at the time of administration, not their birth weight.
- Immunisation providers should weigh all infants or young children prior to administration if they do not have a recent weight recorded.

Age and weight	Dose	Number of syringes to administer
Infant <5kg and <8 months of age	50mg	Give 1 x 50mg pre-filled syringe via intramuscular injection. Volume for IM injection = 0.5mL.
Infant >5kg and <8 months of age	100mg	Give 1x100mg or 2x50mg pre-filled syringes via separate intramuscular injections. (Administer both syringes at the same appointment/during the same encounter) Volume for IM injection = 2 x 0.5mL.
Infants and young children 8 to <24 months, regardless of weight with conditions associated with increased risk of severe RSV disease*	200mg	Give 2 x 100mg pre-filled syringes via separate intramuscular injections. (Administer both syringes at the same appointment/during the same encounter) Volume for IM injection = 2 x 1mL.

Scan QR code for full clinical guidance

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Download and print these posters to display in patient areas.

[Download here: General](#)

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Free RSV immunisation is available for eligible babies and young children

Immunisation is the best way to protect your baby from severe RSV disease

RSV immunisation (nirsevimab) is recommended if:

- you didn't have the RSV vaccination during pregnancy
- you were vaccinated less than 14 days before they were born
- your baby has a complex medical condition that increases their risk of severe RSV disease.

For more information, speak to your GP or immunisation provider about RSV immunisation for your baby.

Search

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[Download here: RSV Information \(First Nations\)](#)

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



[Download here: Signs of RSV \(First Nations\)](#)

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

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



[Download here: Side effects \(First Nations\)](#)

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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 vaccine 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 vaccines 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 vaccines.

For more information on RSV visit Vaccination Matters website

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Social media content

[Download here: social tiles](#)

Your baby may be eligible for a free RSV immunisation

For more information, search:

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Free RSV immunisation is available for eligible babies

Contact your routine immunisation provider to book an appointment ahead of time

For more information, search:

Queensland Government

Suggested caption:

Free RSV immunisation is available for eligible babies.

Immunisation is the best way to protect your baby from severe RSV disease.

For more information, speak to your GP or immunisation provider about RSV immunisation for your baby.

[Download here: First Nations social tiles](#)



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.

Other information

Web content

For clinicians

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

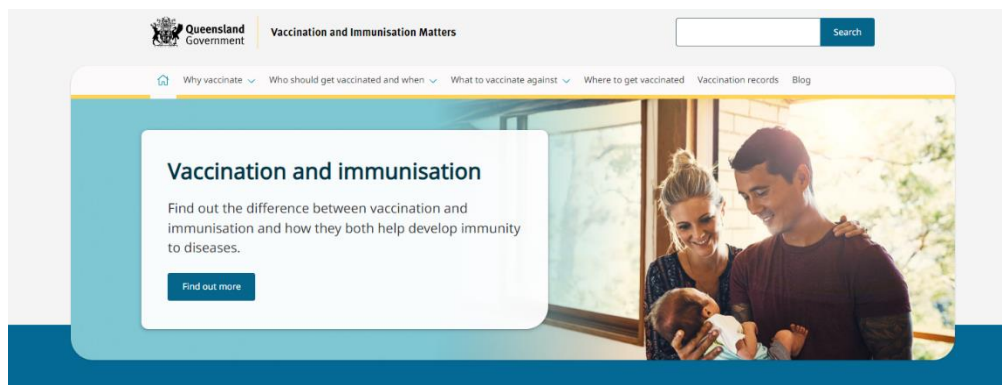
Visit the page here: [Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention Program](#)



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](#)



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](#)