



Department of Health

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TO: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Local Health Departments (LHDs)
FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Bureau of Immunization

HEALTH ADVISORY: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine Standing Orders

For Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Local Health Departments, Newborn Nurseries, Newborn Intensive Care Units, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Pediatric Intensive Care Units, Obstetrics, Infectious Disease, Nursing, Pharmacy, Internal Medicine, and Family Medicine, Long Term Care Facilities

SUMMARY

State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald has issued a statewide non-patient-specific standing order for pharmacists in New York State to administer the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination to individuals aged 60 and older and to pregnant individuals. Therefore, patients will not need an order from their physicians to receive an RSV vaccine at participating pharmacies. This updates the original standing order previously issued for older adults.

Eligible individuals are encouraged to get the vaccine and include:

- Adults aged 60 and older, using shared clinical decision-making.
- Pregnant individuals who are 32–36 weeks and 6 days' gestational age during the RSV season.

The RSV vaccine helps protect adults 60 years and older from RSV disease. Older adults are at greater risk for serious complications from RSV. In addition, certain underlying conditions, such as chronic heart or lung disease, may increase the risk of getting very sick from RSV. Adults living in long-term care facilities may especially benefit from RSV vaccination.

There are two options to help prevent RSV in infants: maternal vaccine for the pregnant individual or preventive antibodies given directly to the baby after birth (nirsevimab). Pregnant individuals in weeks 32 through 36 and 6 days' gestational age are encouraged to get the Pfizer vaccine, ABRYSSVO, from now through the rest of the RSV season to protect infants from birth to six months, especially since there is a limited supply of nirsevimab available at this time. Of note, the GSK RSV vaccine, AREXVY, is not approved or recommended for administration to pregnant individuals but is approved and recommended for non-pregnant individuals 60 years of age and older.

The Department encourages all who are eligible to receive the vaccine now. RSV season in New York most often occurs from September through January.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Signed Non-Patient Specific Standing Order for the Administration of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine (ABRYSVO, AREXVY) for Persons Aged 60 Years and Older and Pregnant Women/Persons (ABRYSVO) by Pharmacists: https://health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/docs/psv_rsv.pdf
- Announcement of the updated standing order from Commissioner McDonald: health.ny.gov/press/releases/2023/2023-11-15_rsv_vaccine_administration.htm
- CDC Webpage for RSV for Health Professionals, with further information on shared decision making: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/clinical/index.html>