

## Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine

Starting October 21, the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine Abrysvo™ will be offered in Alberta through the provincially funded immunization program.

A limited supply of provincially funded vaccine is available. The following individuals will be eligible:

- all community dwelling seniors 75 years of age and older,
- residents of continuing care homes and senior supportive living accommodations, that are 60 years of age and older through the Alberta Outreach Program.

RSV season in Canada usually coincides with the influenza season – it starts in the late fall and lasts until spring. RSV vaccines help prevent lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in individuals 60 years of age and older.

Currently, individuals will only be eligible for a single dose. Since the RSV vaccine is not an annual vaccine, following October 21st it can be administered year-round to eligible Albertans.

For more detailed policy information regarding the use of the RSV vaccine in Alberta, refer to the [RSV biological page](#).

**Outreach Immunization Program** (residents of continuing care homes/supportive living who are 60 years of age and older)

Starting October 21, 2024, RSV vaccines can be administered to residents of continuing care homes and senior supportive living accommodations that are 60 years of age and older through the Alberta Outreach Immunization Program. Pharmacists participating in the outreach immunization program for influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are asked to offer RSV vaccine as part of their outreach program commitments.

The Alberta Health Services (AHS) Provincial Partner Oversight (PPO) Team will begin working with Seniors Congregate Care Setting on allocations. To ensure vaccine is available for congregate care immunizations, wholesale distributors will distribute the RSV vaccine to the respective pharmacies once allocations are complete.

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RSV vaccine cannot be co-administered with influenza or COVID-19 vaccine. RSV vaccine must be given at least **2 weeks before or after** (preferably after) receiving influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, RSV vaccine should be administered at **least 6 weeks before or after** receiving any other vaccine (i.e., not influenza or COVID-19).

### **Seniors 75 years of age and older living in the community**

Starting October 21, 2024, all seniors living in the community who are 75 years of age and older will be eligible to receive provincially funded Abrysvo™.

Due to limited supply, select pharmacies across Alberta (approximately 500) and select AHS Public Health Centres will have supply of provincially funded vaccine for adults 75 years of age and older for the 2024-2025 season.

Due to limited supply at this time, Albertans may need to travel 50-100km to access the vaccine.

The following criteria was applied to identify community pharmacy providers best positioned to administer the RSV (Abrysvo™) vaccine:

1. have provided publicly funded vaccine for at least 5 years,
2. majority of immunized clients are aged 75 years and older (according to immunization claim data),
3. actively use and maintain records in the Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) system (i.e., cannot currently be on a suspension list and have not been on a suspension list in past 6 months),
4. priority was given to those located in rural and remote areas of the province with limited vaccine access,
5. while the use of AVBS is not mandatory to be eligible to receive RSV vaccine, the consistent use of AVBS was considered as part of the selection process,

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And in addition to the above, the following are expected activities to be done by the pharmacies participating in RSV service delivery:

6. must keep RSV vaccine availability on the [ABC Pharmacy inventory Map website](#) so that Albertans know where they can access vaccine. The ability to indicate RSV vaccine on the provider website will be enabled prior to October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Pharmacies that were selected by Alberta Health to participate in the 75+ in store administration program have been sent an instructional email. A response to confirm participation is required by October 04, 2024 . **Please note** that all pharmacies can participate in outreach and more information about allocations will be sent once the AHS PPO team collates requested data from Senior Congregate Care Settings.

For those pharmacies that are not receiving the RSV vaccine, please redirect patients to the [ABC Pharmacy inventory map website](#) to locate a pharmacy offering RSV vaccine.

Alberta Health will be monitoring the supply, wastage, and uptake of the RSV vaccine, and in January 2025 a reassessment will be conducted to potentially allow for more pharmacy participation.

### Individuals eligible for the Alberta program

1. Albertans 60 years of age and older who are residents of continuing care homes or senior supportive living accommodations.
  - Eligible starting October 21, 2024.
  - Will be offered through the Alberta Outreach Immunization Program.
2. Albertans 75 years of age and older who live in the community.
  - Available at select AHS Public Health Centres and select pharmacies starting October 21, 2024.
  - To find the nearest pharmacy that has provincially funded RSV vaccine, please visit [ABC Pharmacy inventory map website](#) or call 811.
  - Beginning October 7, 2024, Albertans can book appointments online through the [Alberta Vaccine Booking System \(AVBS\)](#) for appointments starting October 21, 2024.

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Pharmacies with RSV vaccine inventory can also accept walk-ins.

- Appointments in First Nations communities can be made by calling the local health centre.

Patients who are Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplants (HSCT) recipients or Solid Organ Transplant (SOT) recipients need to consult with their transplant physicians BEFORE receiving RSV vaccine.

### RSV vaccine spacing

Limited efficacy and safety studies have been conducted on co-administration of the RSV vaccine and other vaccines.

RSV vaccine cannot be co-administered with influenza or COVID-19 vaccine. RSV vaccine must be given at least 2 weeks before or after (preferably after) receiving influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, RSV vaccine should be administered at least 6 weeks before or after receiving any other vaccine (i.e., not influenza or COVID-19).

- 2 weeks between RSV vaccine and influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccines (seasonal).
  - During the respiratory season, influenza and COVID-19 vaccines should be prioritized and given first with RSV vaccine following at least two weeks later.
- 6 weeks between RSV vaccine and other vaccines (non-seasonal).

### PIN Updates

Please refer to the following table for Product Identification Numbers (PIN) following the introduction of Abrysvo™. Once a claim is submitted to Alberta Blue Cross, Alberta Health will use ABC claim data to populate the Electronic Health Record via IMM/ARI. Use of the Immunization Direct Submission Mechanism (IDSMS) is not required.

**Please note** that ALL submissions to ABC are required to be done within 3 days after the immunization is provided.

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## PHARMACY BENEFACT

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Manufacturer	Product	PIN	Reason Code	Descriptor	Payment Fee
Pfizer	Abrysvo™ (RSV vaccine)	14100050	50	Routine Recommended Immunization	\$13/dose
		14100022	22	LTC/DSL Resident	\$17/dose

All claims must be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claims adjudication system with the following data elements:

Carrier Code 16 (As the third-party plan)	Relationship code: should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default
Group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000	Prescriber reference ID number (for example, license number of pharmacists with ACP injection authorization)
Pharmacy license number	Service date. PIN/Reason Code.
Pharmacist identification number	Quantity (must be entered as one)
Client number	Client's PHN as the client number. "86" should be used in the Prescriber Reference Code field
Client's full name. (First name and last name)	
Client's date of birth	
Client's gender	

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)  
403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)  
1-800-361-9632 (toll free)  
FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)  
FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit [ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php](http://ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)

