

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 18, 2024

RE: Expanding Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine (Arexvy) High-Risk Program

QUICK FACTS

- The Ministry of Health recently expanded the publicly funded high-risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine program to include individuals 60 years and older who are:
 - patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC)
 - patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
 - recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
 - experiencing homelessness
 - who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis
- Hospitals are responsible for administering publicly funded RSV vaccinations to eligible individuals who are:
 - patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC)
 - patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
 - recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
- Public Health is collaborating with the hospitals to ensure an adequate supply of the RSV vaccine for these populations.
- Healthcare providers who wish to administer the vaccine to eligible patients who cannot access it through the hospitals may order publicly funded doses of the RSV vaccine through Public Health (see below).
- Individuals 60 years of age and older who do not qualify for a publicly funded dose of the RSV vaccine can purchase the vaccine with a prescription through their local pharmacy.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- This fall, the Ontario Ministry of Health launched a high-risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine program, which offers a publicly funded dose of the RSV vaccine, Arexvy, to eligible individuals.
- Eligibility for the [publicly funded RSV vaccine program](#) now includes individuals 60 years of age and older who are:
 - living in long-term care homes
 - living in Elder Care Lodges
 - residents of retirement homes licensed to provide dementia care
 - patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC)

- patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
- individuals experiencing homelessness
- individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis
- Publicly funded doses of the RSV vaccine can be ordered by emailing pharmacistsupportteam@halton.ca. The following information must be included in your email:
 - Facility Name
 - Facility Holding Point Code
 - Temperature Log for the most recent 30 days
 - Number of doses required (for individuals who qualify based on the criteria listed above)
- RSV vaccines will be sent to your facility according to Halton's [vaccine distribution schedule](#).
- Individuals 60 years of age and over who do not qualify for a publicly funded dose of the RSV vaccine can get the vaccine with a prescription through their local pharmacy. Some private insurers may cover all or part of the cost of the vaccine.
- Individuals who purchased the RSV vaccine can either be immunized at the pharmacy (if the pharmacy administers it) or by their primary healthcare provider. There may be costs associated with vaccine administration. Individuals are encouraged to ask about potential vaccine administration costs before immunization.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Arexvy [product monograph](#)
- Ministry of Health [RSV website](#)
- [RSV fact sheet for health care providers](#)
- [RSV fact sheet for vaccine recipients](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.