

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

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

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

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

DATE: November 11, 2024

RE: Update on Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Prevention Program and Beyfortus® and Influenza Vaccine Backorders

QUICK FACTS

- All newborns born at Joseph Brant Hospital, Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Georgetown Hospital on or after **November 4** have been offered Beyfortus®.
- The [Halton Healthcare Pediatric RSV Immunization Clinic](#) will be held at Milton District Hospital starting on November 18, 2024, and will help families and caregivers conveniently access Beyfortus®.
- Primary care providers are encouraged to continue to offer Beyfortus® to eligible infants and high-risk children along with other routine and seasonal vaccines.
- To order Nirsevimab, complete the [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Products Order Form](#) and fax it to 905-465-3403. Orders will be distributed according to the [vaccine distribution schedule](#).
- Vaccine deliveries to the health unit were delayed last week. South Halton facilities can expect backordered doses of Beyfortus® and influenza vaccines to be delivered to your office by early next week. Deliveries will be made at no cost to your office.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Nirsevimab (Beyfortus®) is a monoclonal antibody that provides protection against severe RSV disease. It offers immediate protection through passive immunity when infants are most vulnerable to severe RSV disease.
- Nirsevimab (Beyfortus®) is recommended and publicly funded for:
 - All children born since January 2024
 - All children born during the 2024-2025 RSV season
 - Children up to 24 months of age with any of the following conditions:
 - Chronic lung disease of prematurity, including bronchopulmonary dysplasia
 - Hemodynamically significant congenital heart disease
 - Severe immunodeficiency
 - Down Syndrome / Trisomy 21
 - Cystic fibrosis with respiratory involvement and /or growth delay
 - Neuromuscular disease impairing clearing of respiratory secretions
 - Severe congenital airway abnormalities impairing clearing of respiratory secretions
- The RSV season generally runs from November to April, peaking in December.
- To ensure that children and high-risk infants are protected before RSV starts circulating more widely in the community, Beyfortus® should be administered as soon as possible.

- Beyfortus® can be administered with routine childhood vaccines, as well as flu and COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Please consider using well-child visits or other opportunities this fall/winter to offer Beyfortus® to eligible patients.
 - Ask families if their baby received Beyfortus® in-hospital prior to discharge.
- [The Halton Healthcare Pediatric RSV Immunization Clinic](#) will be held at Milton District Hospital
 - Appointments can be booked starting November 11 by calling 905-203-7967
 - The clinic will open November 18 and will operate Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm and on weekends from 8am to 4pm.
- Beyfortus® is available in 50 mg and 100 mg prefilled syringes. Both formulations are now available for distribution.
 - Beyfortus® 100 mg is indicated for children weighing 5 kg or more.
 - Beyfortus® 50 mg is indicated for infants under 5 kg.
- Since all babies born in hospital are now being offered Beyfortus® prior to discharge, primary care providers should anticipate that very few of their patients will require a 50 mg dose of Beyfortus®.
- Vaccine deliveries to the health unit were delayed last week. Due to this delay, we were unable to fill all orders for QIV standard dose influenza vaccines and Beyfortus® 100mg doses, that were placed by south Halton facilities last week. We are expecting supply to arrive later this week. The vaccine courier will deliver additional Beyfortus® doses and backordered influenza vaccines, at no cost to your office, by early next week.
- A reminder that vaccines are distributed according to the [vaccine distribution schedule](#). Due to order volumes, requests to pick-up vaccines outside of this schedule cannot be accommodated.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- There are safe and effective ways to keep your child from getting an RSV infection.
 - A preventative antibody product that is given the infant/child
 - A vaccine that is given to a pregnant individual between 32-36 weeks gestation
- It is recommended that the preventative antibody, Beyfortus®, be given to infants, as it offers the longest-lasting protection and is considered the safest option.
- Beyfortus® can be administered with routine childhood vaccines, as well as flu and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Only one option is needed to protect your child from RSV. Both the vaccine and preventative antibody are not necessary unless your healthcare provider recommends otherwise.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Respiratory Syncytial Virus – Information for Older Adults, Parents and Caregivers](#), Ministry of Health
[RSV Prevention Programs – Information for Health Care Providers](#), Ministry of Health
[Paediatric RSV Immunization Clinic](#), Halton Healthcare

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.