



# Vaccine Update – 2026 RSV Immunisation Program Launch

## KEY MESSAGES

- The [2026 WA RSV Immunisation Programs](#) have commenced:
  - The infant immunisation (Beyfortus) is free for eligible newborns and at-risk children across WA from **1 April through to 30 September 2026**, and year-round in the Kimberley and Pilbara.
  - 2026 program expansion: All infants born between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026 are eligible for a Beyfortus immunisation; irrespective of mother's Abrysvo vaccine status
  - The maternal vaccine, Abrysvo, is available year-round under the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#).
  - For persons aged 65 years and over in residential aged care homes, Arexvy will be available from late-April, as part of a state-funded program.
- RSV immunisation is recommended for newborns, young children with certain medical risk factors, pregnant women, Aboriginal people aged 60 or over, and all people aged 75 or older.
- The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) has an antenatal indicator allowing vaccination providers to report to the AIR if a person is pregnant at the time of vaccine administration.
- RSV vaccines can be co-administered with other vaccines and must be recorded on the AIR.
- As an immunisation provider, you are a trusted source of information and often, the primary influence in your patient's decision making. Please recommend RSV immunisations to protect your patients from RSV

## Importance of RSV immunisation

- RSV is a highly infectious virus that is the most common cause of respiratory infections in children, with almost all children being infected at least once in their first 2 years of life. RSV can spread quickly in crowded or close-contact environments, including residential aged care homes, childcare centres, and schools.
- RSV is also the leading cause of infant hospitalisation in Australia, and 4 out of 5 children hospitalised with RSV have no underlying health conditions. In WA in 2024, Beyfortus immunisation reduced infant hospitalisations due to RSV by about 80%; a reduction in more than 500 hospitalisations.
- Research shows that maternal vaccination of Abrysvo reduces the risk of severe RSV illness in infants under 6 months of age by around 70%.
- Adults aged 60 years and over who are vaccinated against RSV are 83 per cent less likely to have RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease and 94 per cent less likely to develop severe RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease.

## Abrysvo antenatal immunisation

The maternal RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) is funded under the National Immunisation Program. Pregnant women are recommended to receive the RSV vaccine from 28 weeks gestation to protect infants from birth through to 6 months. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends Abrysvo immunisation at every pregnancy. Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook chapter](#) for more information.

## Beyfortus infant immunisation

From 1 April to 30 September 2026, the below infants will be eligible to receive Beyfortus under the state-funded infant RSV immunisation program; regardless of whether they have a Medicare card:

- infants born between 1 April and 30 September 2026 whose mothers were not vaccinated with Abrysvo at least 2 weeks before giving birth, or were [immunocompromised](#) or the infant has a [high-risk condition](#).

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- Aboriginal children born on or after 1 October 2024
- children with a specific [medical-risk condition](#) born on or after 1 October 2024
- new recommendation: all infants born between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026, irrespective of mother's Abrysvo vaccine status and child's medical risk conditions (can be given from 1 April to 30 June 2026)

This eligibility is applicable statewide except for in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, where RSV immunisation is available to the above cohorts year-round, due to local RSV epidemiological trends.

Note: Beyfortus should not be administered to children aged 24 months and older.

### **Arexvy older adult immunisation**

From late-April, state-funded RSV vaccine for adults (Arexvy) aged 65 and over in residential aged care homes will be available to order.

Note: Arexvy is only registered for adults aged  $\geq 60$  years and adults 50–59 years who are at increased risk for RSV disease and is not registered for use in pregnant women. **Arexvy should not be given to pregnant women or to infants.**

Please see [consent form](#) for recording consent of persons in residential aged care homes.

### **Authority to Vaccinate**

Both Enrolled and Registered Nurses, Midwives and Aboriginal Health Practitioners working under the CEO of Health SASA are authorised to administer Beyfortus for RSV if they meet the eligibility criteria and requirements listed within the appropriate SASA. [View more information on the SASAs here.](#)

### **2026 RSV Program online education**

The WA Health 2026 RSV Online Education Module is a requirement of the RSV Immunisation [CEO of Health Structured Administration and Supply Arrangements \(SASA\)](#), and must be completed prior to administering any RSV immunisation products. The module **This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

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has been updated to include information about Arexvy. [Click here to register](#) to complete the module or scan the QR code below:



For more information [visit Immunisation Education](#).

### **Ordering and distribution of immunisations**

- Government-funded Beyfortus immunisation doses are now available to order through [Onelink Australia](#). Beyfortus should be stored in accordance with the [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'](#). Protect from light by not removing immunisations from their original packaging until you are ready to administer.
- Do not order Beyfortus until you have used any doses remaining from 2025. To receive government-funded vaccines and immunisations, all vaccines or immunisations administered at provider premises are required to be recorded in the [Australian Immunisation Register \(AIR\)](#) (external site).
- Ensure your Onelink contact details are correct for receiving updated and important communications.

### **Reporting cold chain breaches and vaccine wastage**

- To receive government-funded vaccines and immunisations, providers must follow the [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5](#), the WA [Guidelines for the Management of Cold Chain for Immunisation Service Providers](#), and must have completed the Cold Chain Management Training Module.

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- Providers must advise their [WA Health Public Health Unit](#) (PHU) when a cold chain breach occurs or to seek thermal stability advice for other incidents where government-funded vaccines and immunisations are involved.
- All cold chain breaches (CCBs) involving government-funded vaccines after delivery must be immediately reported to their PHU.
- Please refer to [WA Department of Health Cold Chain Management webpage](#) for further information.

## **Webpages and fact sheets**

The below fact sheets will be made available shortly on the WA RSV Immunisation Programs, webpage:

- RSV fact sheet for providers
- RSV fact sheet for parents and carers

Providers can also share the RSV non-clinical FAQs with their reception and administrative staff.

Providers can link parents and carers to the [HealthyWA consumers page](#).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to protecting Western Australians from RSV.

Palee Holdsworth

**A/MANAGER, IMMUNISATION PROGRAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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[health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au)

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