



September 30, 2024

RSV Clinic

1200 Main Street West
Hamilton ON
McMaster Children's Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences
Tel. 905.521.2345
www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a very common virus that occurs most often between October and March. In most children and adults, RSV causes mild illness, like a cold. However, some babies can get very sick from RSV and need to be admitted to hospital for breathing difficulties and other serious complications. RSV can cause severe infection in babies less than one year old. Those who were born prematurely, and those with lung or heart conditions are at higher risk.

Health Canada has recently approved a treatment called Nirsevimab (brand name Beyfortus). This is an antibody that can help protect babies from RSV during the winter season. The antibody is given by injection (needle) into a baby's leg. It is only needed once per year and is considered to be very safe. Rare side effects can include mild fever, pain at the site of the injection, or a mild rash that resolves quickly.

Ontario's Ministry of Health strongly recommends that every baby born in Ontario after January 1, 2024 receive the RSV injection to protect against serious RSV illness and the need for hospitalization during the winter months. Ideally, your child should receive this injection in October or early November 2024, before the RSV season starts.

Options for receiving the injection:

- Call to inquire with your local Public Health Unit (in Hamilton call 905-540-5250); **OR**
- Call to inquire with your family doctor or pediatrician; **OR**
- Appointments will be available in the RSV Clinic at McMaster Children's Hospital weekdays and weekday evenings beginning late October. Please call 905-521-2345 to book an appointment.
- Appointments will be available in the RSV Clinic at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital beginning in late October. Please call 905-945-2253 extension 11401 to book an appointment

Please bring your child's yellow immunization card with you to their appointment so the injection date can be recorded for future reference. If you have questions about RSV, please contact your local Public Health Unit, your family doctor or pediatrician. Please find above a QR code which will direct you to McMaster Children's Hospital RSV Clinic Website for more information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Twiss
Medical Director, RSV Clinic
McMaster Children's Hospital

Kimberley Felker
Director, Women's and Infants Program
MUMC and MCH, Hamilton Health Sciences