

November 2024

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 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 Jan. 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 early November 2024, before the RSV season starts.

Please call our office to book an appointment for your child to receive this protection.

Sincerely,