

## What is Nirsevimab (BEYFORTUS™)?

Nirsevimab (BEYFORTUS™) is a passive immunizing product (monoclonal antibody) that gives infants protection from severe RSV disease in their first RSV season.

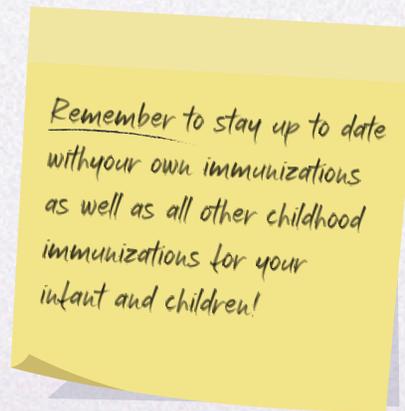
Unlike a vaccine that is designed to teach the body's immune system how to create antibodies against certain viruses and diseases, a monoclonal antibody directly gives the body the antibodies needed to protect against the virus.

The RSV antibodies infants will get from the RSV shot, should provide protection throughout their first RSV season. The RSV shot is a way to offer infants almost immediate protection while they are at the highest risk.

Nirsevimab (BEYFORTUS™) is given as one injection in the thigh and offers protection for roughly 5 months but can be effective for up to 8 months.

Together, we can protect our smallest and most vulnerable residents during cold and flu season.

**Call 811** to speak to a nurse if you have questions about RSV or want to discuss your child's symptoms.



Talk to your healthcare provider for more information about the RSV shot.

For more information on RSV and the RSV shot, visit:



<https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>



# Nirsevimab (BEYFORTUS™) RSV protection for infants in the NWT

Protecting our smallest and most vulnerable residents.



Government of Northwest Territories





### To do before leaving Hospital

- Get car seat ready
- Warm clothes for baby
- Diaper supplies
- Ask about RSV protection & other immunizations for baby

## Why focus on newborns and infants?

For most people, RSV usually causes mild cold-like symptoms. However, newborns and infants are at higher risk of getting severely sick if they get RSV.

In infants, symptoms may include:

- Irritability
- Difficulty breathing
- Decreased appetite or difficulty feeding
- Decreased activity

For infants and young children, RSV infection is a common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation and congestion in the lungs that causes wheezing and cough) and pneumonia.

In more severe cases, RSV can lead to hospitalization.

Every year, RSV in infants causes hospitalizations in the Northwest Territories.

To prevent severe illness from RSV in NWT infants, Nirsevimab (BEYFORTUS™) is now available for infants in the Northwest Territories.

## What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, usually called RSV, is one of the most common respiratory viruses. Symptoms usually appear 2-8 days after exposure to the virus and may include:

- Runny nose
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Wheezing
- Fever
- Decreased appetite and energy

Much like the flu or a cold, a person can get RSV more than once, even in the same season.

RSV is most common in the winter, with a typical RSV season lasting from November to May of each year.

## Who can get the Nirsevimab (BEYFORTUS™) shot in the NWT?

The shot is recommended for all infants aged 0 to 3 months of age at the start and throughout the RSV season (approx. November to May).

This will be available at:

- Birthing centers and hospitals
- Your local community health centre or public health unit during your baby's Well Child appointment, if your baby was born **before** RSV season but is 3 months and younger at the onset of RSV season.

