



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
GOVERNOR

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

Jennifer Dillaha, MD
DIRECTOR

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Recommendation to Immunize Infants with RSV Monoclonal Antibodies through April 30, 2026

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) transmission is continuing in Arkansas. As of March 14, 2026, RSV test positivity was 13.2% among children tested at Arkansas Children's Hospital's laboratory. Statewide hospital admissions and the proportion of inpatients with RSV remain elevated among children 0-4 years of age. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is issuing this health advisory to summarize recommendations for continuing RSV immunization with RSV monoclonal antibody products for eligible infants and young children through April 30, 2026.

Background

RSV infection is the most common cause of hospitalization in infants in the US. RSV monoclonal antibody products, nirsevimab (Beyfortus) and clesrovimab (Enflonsia), are highly effective in preventing infant hospitalizations due to RSV. RSV infections in young children are likely to continue into April 2026.

Recommendations for Clinicians

- Continue RSV immunization with RSV monoclonal antibody products through April 30, 2026:
 - Nirsevimab or clesrovimab can be administered to all infants aged 0-7 months within 1 week of birth, ideally during the birth hospitalization or as soon as possible after discharge (unless prenatal RSV immunization occurred between 32 through 36 weeks of gestation and at least 14 days before delivery). There is no preference for either monoclonal antibody product.
 - For children aged 8-19 months at [high risk](#) of severe RSV, only nirsevimab is recommended.
- Children born between May-September 2026 can receive nirsevimab or clesrovimab during the next RSV season (2026-2027) beginning October 1, 2026.
- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides nirsevimab and clesrovimab at no cost for enrolled VFC providers immunizing VFC-eligible children who are <19 years old, Medicaid-eligible or enrolled, uninsured, underinsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native.
- **The recommendation to extend administration does not include pregnant women who receive the Abrysvo vaccine.** Abrysvo is only recommended for pregnant women 32-36 weeks gestation during September-January each RSV season.

For More Information

- Contact the ADH Immunizations Branch (immunization.section@arkansas.gov, 501-661-2169)
- [CDC Immunization Schedule - RSV Monoclonal Antibody Notes](#)
- [Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel | Respiratory Illnesses | CDC](#)
- [Weekly Viral Respiratory Diseases Report](#)

Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham St. • Little Rock, AR 72205

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