



RSV VACCINE FOR ADULTS 60+

Key Messages:

- Protecting the health and well being of Albertans is a priority of this government.
- Arexvy was approved by Health Canada for use in adults 60 years of age and older on August 4, 2023.
- Alberta Health is awaiting guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) prior to making recommendations on the use of Arexvy in Alberta.
- Alberta Health will not be funding Arexvy for the upcoming RSV season.
- Once vaccine supply arrives in Canada this fall, this vaccine will be available for purchase in Alberta, and so individuals in the eligible population (60+) may choose to access Arexvy if it is covered through private health insurance or if they want to pay out-of-pocket.

Key Facts

- RSV season in Canada usually coincides with the influenza season—it starts in the late fall and lasts until spring.
- Arexvy helps prevent lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in individuals 60 years of age and older.

Questions & Answers:

What prompted the development of Arexvy?

- Doctors have been calling for an RSV vaccine for seniors because although the virus is common, older people are much more likely to become severely ill and require hospitalization.

How effective is Arexvy vaccine at treating RSV?

- Clinical trial showed high vaccine efficacy of 82.6% for prevention of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in older adults, and 94.6% efficacy in those with underlying medical conditions.

When will Arexvy be accessible in Alberta?

- Before making recommendations regarding the use of Arexvy in Alberta, Alberta Health is awaiting a statement from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

Will the province cover the cost of vaccination?

- Alberta Health will not be provincially-funding Arexvy for the upcoming RSV season.
- Once vaccine supply arrives in Canada, this vaccine will be available for purchase in Alberta, and so individuals in the eligible population (60+) may choose to access Arexvy if it is covered through private health insurance or if they want to pay out-of-pocket.

When will Alberta begin covering the cost?

- When considering whether a vaccine is added to the provincially funded immunization program, Alberta Health conducts a thorough analysis of the NACI statement, scientific literature, and the state of the disease in the province, among other factors. If the analysis demonstrates that there is benefit to population health and funds can be secure for the vaccine inventory budget, then the vaccine is added to Alberta's provincially funded immunization program.

Has the federal government given any indication when it might provide recommendations?

- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization indicated that a statement on RSV for adults is planned for the fall of 2024.