

ADVISORY: RSV, Influenza, COVID-19 Fall Updates

October 2, 2024

Key Information

- Encourage patients to receive vaccinations when eligible
- RSV vaccination should be offered by HCPs to all infants born in 2024, up to the start of the RSV season. Once the season begins, most newborns can be vaccinated in the hospital or in the community following discharge
- Residents are encouraged to receive their COVID-19 vaccine at pharmacies. PPH will be holding clinics for individuals under 5 years old
- Health care providers should consider co-administration of immunization products whenever possible
- Vaccine order forms and Ministry Guidance Documents can be found at: www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/for-professionals/health-professionals/immunizations-and-vaccines/
- Information on antivirals can be found online for [COVID-19](#) and [Influenza](#)

RSV

The Ministry of Health has launched a new, expanded RSV prevention program for the 2024 season. This includes an expanded infant program, that includes all infants born during and outside the RSV season, as well as children under 2 years of age with high-risk medical conditions. Nirsevimab (Beyfortus), a monoclonal antibody should be offered by health care providers to all infants who were born in 2024, up to the beginning of RSV season (early November 2024). At the beginning of the RSV season, newborns will be offered the vaccination while at the hospital. Certain high-risk children up to two years of age are also eligible to receive Nirsevimab.

Additionally, the RSVpre-F/Abrysvo vaccine will be available for people who are pregnant, to provide protection for the infant from birth until 6 months. *The infant Nirsevimab after birth is recommended and is more effective*, however, the prenatal vaccine can be offered on a case-by-case basis for those preferring. For more information, visit PPH's [Health Care Provider RSV](#) webpage.

Nirsevimab will be available to order from PPH in mid to late October for use with your eligible patients. Abrysvo is now available to order for pregnant people who are not planning to have their baby receive Nirsevimab. For guidance on the use of Nirsevimab and Abrysvo, visit the provincial [RSV Prevention Programs](#) webpage.

Influenza

PPH has received an initial supply of influenza vaccine and will begin distribution of initial allotments as follows:

- Week of October 1st: hospital and long-term care homes for residents, staff, and essential caregivers
- Week of October 7th: primary care and other settings for vaccination of [high-priority groups](#)
- Week of October 21st: HCPs can place orders for additional doses of flu vaccine. Pick up will be available the following week.
- Week of October 28th: vaccination of the general public should begin

PPH will be providing vaccination clinics for unattached children who are too young to be vaccinated at a pharmacy. For guidance on the use of influenza vaccine, visit the [Universal Influenza Immunization Program](#) webpage.

Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases of Canada recommends influenza antivirals for adults and children with ILI who are at higher risk of complications; have severe, complicated or progressive illness; or are hospitalized. Influenza antivirals work best if administered within 48 hours of symptom onset; therefore, start as soon as possible without waiting for lab confirmation.

COVID-19

The updated formulation of mRNA vaccine (KP.2) is expected to arrive at PPH and pharmacies the first week of October. Initial doses of COVID-19 vaccines should be prioritized for the highest risk groups, with vaccination of the general public beginning October 28th. While the protein-based Novavax vaccine was authorized by Health Canada, we are not aware of federal/provincial procurement and therefore it appears it will not be locally available in Ontario for this respiratory season.

Once available, the general population is encouraged to get vaccinated at a local pharmacy. PPH will be hosting clinics for individuals who are under 5 years of age. In the past, PPH has been made aware of some pharmacies only vaccinating individuals aged 12+. Patients should be encouraged to phone the pharmacy or check online, if they are looking for a vaccination for someone under the age of 12. The Ontario Ministry of Health provides the following guidance for health care providers and the general public.

If you wish to participate in COVID-19 vaccination and it has been more than 45 days since last login, you will need to reactivate your COVaxON login ahead of COVID vaccine administration. Please forward reactivation requests to Patti Fitzgerald at pfitzgerald@peterboroughpublichealth.ca

Two antiviral medications are available for outpatients to treat COVID-19: oral nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) and IV remdesivir (Veklury). Antivirals should be strongly considered for patients with COVID-19 symptoms and a positive test (PCR, rapid molecular or RAT), who are at risk of severe outcomes. Paxlovid is the preferred first-line treatment and should be prescribed within 5 days of symptoms onset. Find more details on the [Ministry](#) webpage.

For new guidance on the prevention and treatment of Post COVID-19 Condition, see the Canadian PCC Guidelines at: canpcc.ca.

Local Risk Index

The COVID-19 and Respiratory Virus Risk Index brings together all available local data for COVID-19, influenza, and influenza-like illnesses, to provide a snapshot of the current local risk. PPH receives this data weekly and publishes a weekly Risk Index every Wednesday. View the Risk Index and sign-up for the weekly update online at www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/covid-19-risk-index






















More Resources

Public Health Ontario is hosting two Respiratory Season webinars:

- Immunization: Thursday October 10th at 11:00am. Sign up on [Eventbrite](#)
- Surveillance & Testing: Thursday October 3rd at 10:30am. Sign up on [Eventbrite](#)

Please see the following page for a summary chart of COVID/flu/RSV vaccines by age and demographic.

Respiratory Virus Vaccine Summary Chart

Group	Influenza	COVID-19	RSV
< 6 months			Nirsevimab 
6 months to 12 years	1 st time: 2 doses, if under age 9 	Moderna 	Nirsevimab <i>Born 2024</i> <i>High Risk < 2yrs</i> 
12 – 60 years		Pfizer or Moderna 	
60-65 years		Pfizer or Moderna 	<i>Long term care</i> <i>Retirement home;</i> <i>Or homeless</i> 
65 years +	Adjuvanted or High Dose 	Pfizer or Moderna 	<i>Long term care</i> <i>Retirement home;</i> <i>Or homeless</i> 
Medical Risk		Pfizer or Moderna 	<i>60yr+ALC/dialysis</i> <i>/transplant</i> 
Indigenous		Pfizer or Moderna 	60 years + 



Strongly Recommended



Generally Recommended



Not Recommended

For further information on influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 vaccination, visit www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/healthcare-professionals

Health Care Professional Alerts/Advisories from PPH:

PPH is transitioning all communication with HCPs to an email subscription using Mailchimp. This is the final alert being sent by fax. Alerts will no longer be sent outside of Mailchimp. HCPs must [sign up](#) to receive alerts on this system.

Scan to sign up now!

