

The Spoke Signal

The 'smoke' signal is one of the oldest forms of long-distance, visual communication. A smoke signal can be used to transmit news, signal danger, or to gather people to a common area.

September 2024

National Infection Control Week

'Prevent with Intent'

October 14 - 18, 2024



Every 3rd week of October, we celebrate 'National Infection Control Week' (NICW). It is a time to celebrate IPAC professionals and the important work they do to keep the public safe throughout the year. Let's make IPAC week fun and engaging and show everyone that it's not just about COVID-19. Get your staff, residents, visitors and families involved and raise awareness of our important profession.

International Infection Prevention Week 2024



October 13 - 19, 2024

'Moving the Needle'

NICW coincides with globally recognized 'International Infection Prevention Week' (IIPW). APIC created a free promotional toolkit that can help plan NICW/IIPW including posters and games. Check out the "Daily FUNDamentals" link for daily themes and access to IPAC Jeopardy, daily wordles and fun activities for staff or residents.



Ideas

- Jeopardy
- BINGO
- Escape Room
- Mock Outbreak
- Pin the PPE on the Infection
- Hand Hygiene: Glo-Germ, coloured paint or pudding
- Timed equipment cleaning race
- IPAC Quizzes
- Triz activity
- Snapchat "Guess Who"?

Don't forget to share your experience with others!

2024 Vaccine Updates

- RSV vaccine is now publicly funded for Retirement Home residents - *updated RSV Fact Sheet on page 2*
- New COVID-19 KP.2 vaccine available this fall

Resources:

IPAC Canada: [Activities](#)
IPAC Canada: [Planning Your Week](#)
PICNet BC: [IIPW NICW Toolkit](#)
Public Health Ontario: ['Rise to the Occasion' primer](#)

Contact the IPAC Hub to help make your facility's IPAC week memorable!



A community without preventable infections.



Contact us: SEhubintake@kingstonhsc.ca

RSV Vaccine Fact Sheet

What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common cause of respiratory illness which can cause infection in the upper (e.g., nose and throat) and lower (e.g., lower airways and lungs) respiratory tract. RSV Season is generally between November and April.

What is the RSV vaccine?

The RSV vaccine is a safe and effective 0.5mL single-dose recombinant vaccine, administered intramuscularly, that aids in reducing the risk of developing RSV-associated illnesses for individuals 60+ years of age.



Who is at risk?

For adults 60+ years of age, data suggest an increased risk for severe RSV infection that can lead to hospitalization. Older adults are at high risk for severe disease due in part to age-related decline in immunity, and older adults with some underlying conditions are at even greater risk for severe disease. RSV can exacerbate conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, diabetes, and congestive heart failure and can lead to severe outcomes, such as pneumonia, hospitalization, and death.



Arexvy (GSK) and/or Abrysvo (Pfizer) may be available from Public Health Units.

Who is eligible for public funding?

Individuals 60+ years of age, not previously vaccinated for RSV and:

- living in long-term care or retirement homes
- in hospital receiving alternative level of care
- receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants

SAFETY & EFFICACY



- Supportive evidence in single-dose prevention of RSV disease in adults 60 years of age and older
- If received last season, not required



- Authorized by Health Canada
- Recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization



- Studies show multi-year protection
- Studies are ongoing to determine how long the vaccines provide protection



- Shown to be safe
- Demonstrated high effectiveness in preventing severe disease from RSV

Common Side Effects

- Pain or swelling at injection site
- Fatigue
- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Muscle aches or joint pain

The RSV vaccine does not contain the RSV virus and cannot cause an infection.

Similar to all vaccines, it may not fully protect all people who are vaccinated but may reduce morbidity.

Do not get an RSV vaccine if you:

- Received an RSV vaccine previously
- Are febrile or have severe acute illness
- Have experienced a reported AEFI and not consulted your doctor
- Have had a transplant (solid-organ or stem cell) less than 3 months prior
- Have a history of severe allergic reaction to any vaccine ingredients¹ or non-medicinal ingredients¹ or materials found in the vaccine's packaging (e.g., vial cap, aluminum seal, or synthetic rubber stopper)

¹ Respiratory Syncytial Virus Pref3 (RSVPreF3), Quillaja saponaria Molina, fraction 21 (QS-21), 3-O-desacetyl-4'-monophosphoryl lipid A (MPL), Trehalose dihydrate, Polysorbate 80, Potassium dihydrogen phosphate, Dipotassium phosphate, Dioleoyl phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, Sodium chloride, Disodium phosphate, anhydrous, Potassium dihydrogen phosphate, Mannitol, Sucrose, Tromethamine, Trometamol hydrochloride, Water for injection



Please speak with your health care provider if you have questions regarding the available RSV vaccines.