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TO: **California Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Providers**

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D. 
Chief, Immunization Branch
Division of Communicable Disease Control
Center for Infectious Diseases

SUBJECT: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) for Older Adults and Pregnant People Available Through VFA

Dear VFA Provider,

RSV vaccines are now available in limited quantities through the VFA program. Clinical guidance is summarized in this letter. Detailed recommendations from the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices are available at [RSV ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#).

Older Adult RSV Vaccine Recommendation

Adults aged 60 years and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine using [shared clinical decision-making](#) to prevent symptomatic RSV-associated lower respiratory tract infections. For the 2023-24 RSV season, providers recommending RSV vaccine should administer vaccine now as permits. Vaccine options include RSVPreF3 + adjuvant (Arexvy™, GSK) and RSVPreF (Abrysvo™, Pfizer).

For RSV vaccination, the decision to vaccinate a patient should be based on a discussion between the health care provider and the patient. As part of this discussion, providers and patients should consider the patient's risk for severe RSV-associated disease. Adults aged ≥60 years who may be most likely to benefit include [persons with chronic medical conditions](#), those who are frail or who are of advanced age and residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Prenatal RSV Vaccine Recommendation

RSVPreF (Abrysvo™, Pfizer) is the only RSV vaccine recommended for pregnant people during 32 through 36 weeks' gestation, using seasonal administration (September–January), to prevent RSV-associated lower respiratory tract infection in infants. Either prenatal vaccination or use of nirsevimab in the infant is recommended to prevent RSV

lower respiratory tract infection, but administration of both products is not needed for most infants. Prenatal care providers should discuss current nirsevimab shortages when counseling pregnant people about RSV vaccine.

Vaccine Safety

Patients should be counseled regarding the risks of a vaccine reaction and provided with the [RSV Vaccine Information Statement](#). Encourage your patients to participate in [CDC's V-safe program](#), which allows people to share with CDC how they feel after receiving the vaccine. Common reactions include pain, redness, and swelling where the shot is given; fatigue; fever; headache; nausea; diarrhea; and muscle or joint pain. Serious neurologic conditions, including Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), have been reported after RSV vaccination in clinical trials of older adults. Preterm birth and high blood pressure during pregnancy, including pre-eclampsia, have been reported among pregnant people who received RSV vaccine during clinical trials. It is unclear whether these events were caused by the vaccine.

Coadministration of RSV vaccines with other vaccines during the same visit is a recommended option.

Detailed information on storage and handling can be found on the [AREXVY FDA Product Insert](#) and [ABRYSV0 FDA Product Insert](#).

VFA Program Updates

Both Arexvy and Abrysvo will be available through the VFA program. Currently, the VFA Program is working with a limited 317 budget and has very limited amounts of RSV vaccine available. Vaccine order requests will be approved based on available supply. VFA supplies of Arexvy and Abrysvo may be given to any VFA-eligible adult for RSV prevention.

VFA Vaccine Eligibility

Adults (aged 19+) who are uninsured, underinsured, or have Medicare Part B are eligible to receive the RSV vaccine through the VFA program. People with Medi-Cal for pregnancy are not eligible for VFA vaccines. For detailed guidance on eligibility for VFA vaccines, see: [Vaccine Eligibility Guidelines for VFC, VFA, BAP \(IMM-1222\)](#).

RSV Resources

- [CDPH RSV Immunization Resources](#)
- [CDC RSV FAQs](#)
- [CDC Shared Clinical Decision-Making Job Aid: RSV Vaccine](#)
- [CDC RSV Vaccine Information Statements \(VIS\) in Multiple Languages](#)
- [CDC RSV Immunizations](#)