



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Respiratory Syncytial Virus maternal vaccination programme publications

July 27 2024

UKHSA Immunisation – Design, Implementation and  
Clinical guidance depts.

# Respiratory Syncytial Virus Programme Letter

From 1 September 2024, a vaccination for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) will be available for:

1. Older adults aged 75 to 79
2. Pregnant women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant

More details can be found on the [RSV programme letter](#) on GOV.UK.

Correspondence

## Introduction of new NHS vaccination programmes against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

Published 24 June 2024

Applies to England

Contents	24 June 2024
<a href="#">Programme for older adults aged 75 to 79 years old</a>	To:
<a href="#">Programme for pregnant women to protect infants</a>	Trust:
<a href="#">Annexe A. Detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals – Older adult programme</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• chief executives</li><li>• chief operating officers</li><li>• medical directors</li></ul>
<a href="#">Annexe B. Detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals – pregnancy vaccination for infant protection programme</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• chief pharmacist</li><li>• chief nurses</li><li>• head of midwifery</li></ul>
<a href="#">Annexe C. Detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals – both programmes</a>	Integrated Care Boards (ICB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• chief executives</li><li>• chief operating officers</li></ul>

# RSV Collection on GOV.UK

The [RSV Collection](#) holds a range of information on the programme for the public and professionals.

This includes the following documents:

1. [RSV Vaccination Programme Letter](#)
2. JCVI advice on a RSV vaccination programme
3. [RSV for older adults leaflet and poster](#)
4. [RSV for pregnant women leaflet and poster](#)

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is an enveloped RNA virus, in the same family as the human parainfluenza viruses and mumps and measles viruses. RSV is one of the common viruses that cause coughs and colds in winter. RSV is transmitted by large droplets and by secretions from contact with an infected person.

Infants under one year of age and the elderly are at the greatest risk of developing severe disease. While most RSV infections usually cause mild illness, infants aged less than 6 months frequently develop the most severe disease such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia, which may result in hospitalisation.

From 1 September 2024, 2 new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programmes will be introduced:

#### **Programme for older adults aged 75 to 79 years old**

All adults turning 75 years old on or after 1 September 2024 will be eligible for the routine programme and should be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. A one-off catch-up campaign for those already aged 75 to 79 years old on 1 September 2024 will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

#### **Programme for pregnant women to protect infants**

All women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant (the eligible cohort) on 1 September 2024, will be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. After that, pregnant women will become eligible as they reach 28 weeks gestation and remain eligible up to birth.

#### **Programme documents**

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##### [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) vaccination programmes letter](#)

24 June 2024    Correspondence

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##### [RSV immunisation programme: JCVI advice, 7 June 2023 \(updated 11 September 2023\)](#)

11 September 2023    Independent report

# RSV programme slide sets and health practitioners guidance

## Training resources

Download the guidance and training slide sets for healthcare professionals:

- [RSV older adults vaccination programme slide set](#)
- [RSV vaccination of older adults: information for healthcare practitioners](#)
- [RSV vaccination of pregnant women for infant protection: information for health practitioners](#)
- [RSV maternal vaccination programme slide set](#)

## [Green book chapter 27](#) [a Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#)

Chapter 27a: Respiratory syncytial virus 18 July 2024

### 27a

#### Respiratory syncytial virus

**The disease**

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is an enveloped, negative-sense, single-stranded RNA virus that belongs to the *Orthopneumovirus* genus of the *Pneumoviridae* family in the order *Mononegavirales* (Rima et al., 2017). Two surface glycoproteins on the virus have important functions in cell infection. The attachment glycoprotein G binds the virus to a host cell and trimeric fusion (F) glycoprotein joins the viral envelope with the host cell's plasma membrane, so the virus can enter the host cell. The F protein also stimulates the fusion of the plasma membranes of infected cells creating multinucleated syncytia, which can be observed in tissue culture. Two major subtypes (A and B, sometimes referred to as subgroups) of RSV have been identified based on structural variations in the G protein. The predominance of each subtype changes over successive seasons; studies find an inconsistent relationship between subtype and disease severity (see Chiarlito et al., 2015).

RSV is a common cause of respiratory tract infections. It usually causes a mild self-limiting respiratory infection in adults and children, but it can be severe in infants and older adults who are at increased risk of acute lower respiratory tract infection (ALRT), sometimes termed lower respiratory tract disease, LRTD), including bronchiolitis in infants. RSV bronchiolitis in the pre-immunisation era was an important cause of emergency department attendances (Williams et al., 2023) and amongst the leading causes of infant hospital admissions, with an average annual admission rate of 35.1 per 1000 infant under one year old (Reeves et al., 2017).

Humans are the only known reservoir of RSV. RSV is readily transmissible, with mean estimates of the basic reproduction number around 4.5 (Rees and Shaman, 2018). The incubation period is considered to range from two to eight days and infectious period from three to eight days. The virus is spread from respiratory secretions through close contact with infected persons via respiratory droplets or contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. At least half of children experience an RSV infection in the first year of life and almost all will by the age of two (Henderson et al., 1979; Berbers et al., 2021). Previous infection by RSV confers only partial immunity to RSV and so individuals may be infected repeatedly with the same or different strains of RSV (Cohansky et al., 2009; Berbers et al., 2021).

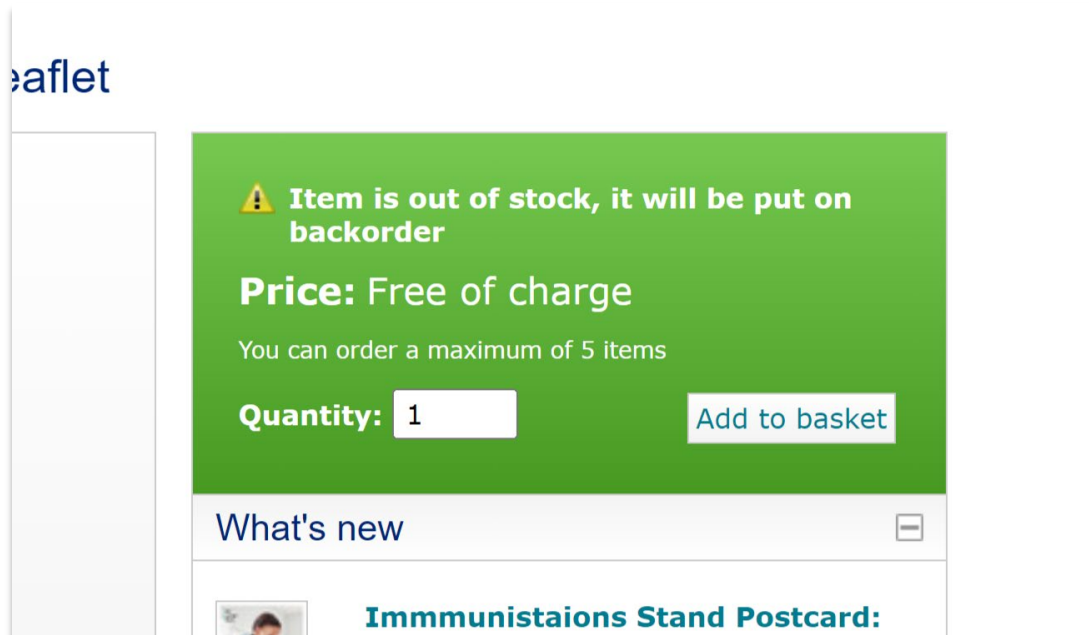
Those infected by RSV experience a range of acute respiratory infection (ARI) symptoms such as rhinitis, cough, shortness of breath, wheeze, lethargy and sometimes fever (Hart, 2001; Dietz et al., 2024). RSV (ARI) can include pneumonia in all ages, and bronchiolitis in young children, in whom it may also cause decreased oral intake. RSV also causes croup and otitis media in children (Johnson, 2009; Phillips et al., 2020).

RSV associated infant mortality is highest in low- and middle-income countries, but RSV has a significant disease burden and related healthcare utilisation in high-income countries (Greenough et al., 2004; Li et al., 2022). In the UK prior to the introduction of universal RSV

Chapter 27a - 1

# All new items will show as out of stock – stock is on its way

- Please place your orders now



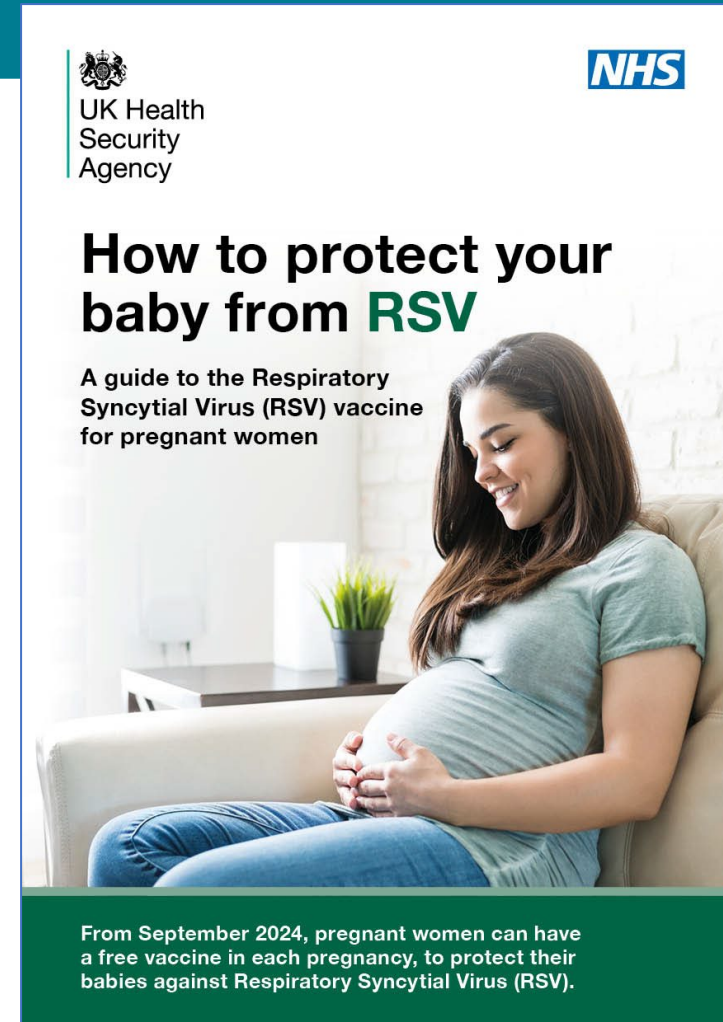
Back orders will be fulfilled in chronological order.

Health professionals can order 500 of each item on the site or call 0300 123 1002 to place large orders or email

[Dhextracopies@prolog.co.uk](mailto:Dhextracopies@prolog.co.uk)

# How to protect your baby from RSV

- This guide to the RSV vaccination for pregnant women contains the rationale for the programme, who is eligible and when they should have their RSV vaccine, safety and effectiveness, where to get more information and the symptoms of RSV.
- This leaflet can be ordered using product code: [C24RSV03EN](#)



# Protect your baby from RSV poster

Product Code: [RSVPGEN](#)

There is a poster to promote the programme to pregnant women.

This should be displayed in GP surgeries, maternity units or midwifery settings and hospitals.



# RSV leaflet for pregnant women – translations and accessible versions

This leaflet is available in the following languages:

[Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese \(simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(traditional\)](#), [Dari](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Nepali](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#), [Yiddish](#) and [Yoruba](#).

This leaflet is also available in a range of accessible formats:

[Audio](#), [Braille](#), [British Sign Language](#) and [Large Print](#).

Training and guidance slide set and health professional guidance, Green book chapter, will be published shortly.

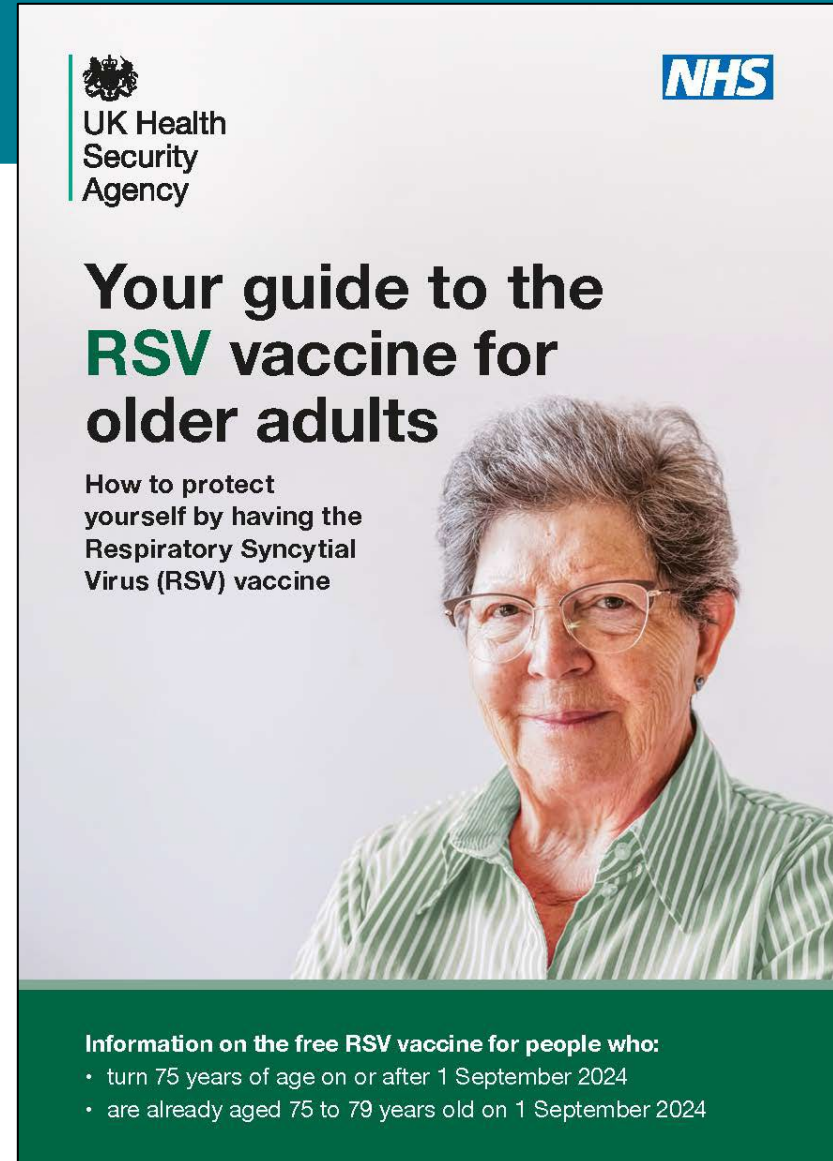
PGD will be published later and be available to download in advance of the start of the programme.





# RSV leaflet for older adults

- This guide to the RSV vaccination for older adults aged 75 to 79. It contains the rationale for the programme, who is eligible and when they should have their RSV vaccine, safety and effectiveness, where to get more information and the symptoms of RSV.
- This leaflet can be ordered using product code: [C24RSV01EN](#)



# RSV leaflet for older adults – translations and accessible versions

This leaflet is available in the following languages:

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PGD will be published later and be available to download in advance of the start of the programme.



# It's time for your RSV vaccine poster

There is a poster aimed at older adults to promote the RSV vaccine. Copies should be ordered and displayed in any setting for older adults including those offering the vaccine.

You can order copies of this poster using product code: [C24RSV01EN](#)



# Where to find the RSV publications to order – free service for all settings including those vaccinating

The screenshot shows the NHS website header with the UK Health Security Agency logo and the NHS logo. Navigation tabs include Home, Order Publications, View Campaigns, Find Digital Assets, and Quiz. Below the header is an 'About this site' section with an information icon. The text reads: 'On this website you can order and download publications created by The Department for Health and Social Care Health Security Agency (UKHSA). The Green Book has the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures, for vaccine preventable infectious diseases. The Green Book chapter updates and the latest developments in view past issues here and register to receive the newsletter.'

## Health Publications

A grid of ten search cards for various health publications. Each card features a title, a 'Search' button, and a 'Now' indicator. The cards are: 1. 'The flu vaccination' with a photo of a family. 2. 'Maternal Vaccination' with a photo of a pregnant woman. 3. 'MMR/Measles' with a red background and white dots. 4. 'Shingles' with a photo of an elderly woman. 5. 'Hepatitis' with a photo of a person in a white coat. 6. 'Meningitis' with a background of colorful arrows and text like 'headache', 'blotchy skin', 'dizziness', 'bright light', 'drowsiness'. 7. 'Schools' with a photo of children in a classroom. 8. 'COVID-19 vaccination programme' with a purple heart shape. 9. 'universal programme' with a photo of a group of people. 10. 'TB/BCG' with a photo of a person in a white coat.

## [Health publications website](#)

Free service  
Deliveries 3-5 working days  
Short link:

<https://qrco.de/healthpubs>



Resources to support health professionals delivering the routine vaccinations and looking after pregnant women

# Have you registered for Vaccine Update – Immunisation bulletin – RSJ special issue coming soon

CQC endorsed – ‘registering and reading Vaccine update is one of the indicators of best practice’ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>

Audience: Screening and immunisation teams, clinics, GP practices, practice nurses, midwives, student nurses, health professionals and anyone with an interest in the UK vaccination programmes.

One stop shop for policy, supply or vaccine programme implementation including the training, guidance documents, examples of best practice, implementation guidance and patient facing resources to promote the campaign.

Register for the free bulletin here: [Sign up to receive the Vaccine update newsletter.](#)

The collage features six covers of the 'Vaccine Update' bulletin:

- Issue 326 - April 2022:** Gay and bisexual men and those aged 15 and over to receive 2 doses of the HPV vaccine. People with HIV or known to be immunocompromised will continue to receive 3 doses.
- COVID-19 special • Issue 330 June 2022:** 120 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine given in England.
- Issue 324 - November 2021:** Special edition • Special edition • Special edition • Special edition • Special edition • Special edition. Flu vaccination programme.
- Issue 339 - June 2023 - HPV Special:** Changes to the HPV Universal Programme.
- Issue 327 - May 2022:** SCID and TB a BCG Vaccine Update Special. Changes to the NHS neonatal Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) immunisation programme.
- Issue 328 - May 2022:** Do they know it's shingles?



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Health Publications website

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/Home.html>

or phone 0300 123 1002