



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary
September 27, 2024

Dear Maryland Prenatal Providers,

The Maryland Department of Health strongly encourages all prenatal providers to protect newborns during the upcoming Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season by offering the RSV vaccine Abrysvo® to their pregnant patients between 32 0/7 and 36 6/7 weeks gestation, as [recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#).

RSV infection is a serious health burden for our state's pediatric population. It is the leading cause of pneumonia and hospitalization for children under 12-months-old and led to an average of 840 hospitalizations per year between 2021 and 2023 for children less than 2-years-old in Maryland. The [CDC reports](#) that Abrysvo® is a safe and highly effective vaccine that can reduce a newborn's risk of being hospitalized from RSV by 57% in the first six months after birth. RSV season typically runs from October 1st to March 31st and we aim to protect all Maryland newborns by either vaccinating their birthing parent with Abrysvo® or administering the RSV immunization Beyfortus® (nirsevimab-alip) to the infant after birth.

You can do your part by offering Abrysvo® to your patients in one of two ways:

- Give Abrysvo® directly in your practice or clinic. More information on purchasing, storage, and administration of Abrysvo® is available on the [Pfizer website](#).
- Assist eligible pregnant patients with obtaining Abrysvo® from their local pharmacy. We encourage your practice to identify specific pharmacies in your catchment area and to clarify with those pharmacies if they stock Abrysvo® and have any specific requirements for pregnant patients to receive the vaccine, such as a prescription or documentation of gestational age. (Note: this documentation is not a requirement or recommendation, but may be included in local pharmacy policies/procedures)

Then, consider how to effectively communicate the pregnant patient's vaccination status to the pediatric providers who will care for their newborn so that it can be determined whether the infant needs to receive Beyfortus®.

Please take this opportunity to protect one of the most vulnerable populations under your care by offering Abrysvo® today. If you would like further information or have questions, please email mdh.izinfo@maryland.gov.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the health of newborns in your community.

Yours in health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niles Kalyanaraman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Niles Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP
Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services

cc: Elizabeth E. Kromm, PhD, MSc
Courtney McFadden, MPH
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