



Important Update to COVID-19 and RSV Vaccine Recommendations

Get your patients and staff vaccinated against COVID-19 and RSV

We strongly recommend that your patients stay current with their COVID-19 vaccinations to prevent COVID-19 infection and its complications. The mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) are preferred due to their high efficacy and safety profiles. Additionally, Novavax vaccines are not approved for children under 12 years old. Novavax serves as an alternative for adolescents or adults who are unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine.

Please refer our common members to the commercial pharmacy for mRNA COVID-19 boosters, as most offices do not have ultra-cold storage capabilities.

The Vaccine for Children (VFC) program offers COVID-19 vaccines for Medi-Cal members under the age of 18. For additional information, please contact (877) 243-8832.

	mRNA (Moderna/Pfizer)	Novavax (traditional vaccine technology)
Approved for ages:	6 month old +	12 year old +
Storage	Ultra-cold storage	Standard refrigeration
Efficacy*	86-100% (Moderna) ⁷⁻⁹ 90-100% (Pfizer) ¹⁻⁶	80-90% ¹⁰⁻¹²

**No head-to-head studies comparing mRNA and Novavax vaccines are currently available. Additionally, vaccine protection against symptomatic infection is lower with Omicron, and the Novavax study occurred when Omicron was the prominent circulating variant.*

The Novavax vaccine is NOT approved for ages 6 months to 12 years old.

Uptodate.com Recommendations:

In the United States, updated mRNA vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer, 2023-2024 Formula) are recommended for all vaccine doses. Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is also available in an updated formulation and is primarily an alternative for adolescents or adults who cannot or will not receive an mRNA vaccine.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccines

RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious. Infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV and need hospitalization.

2024-2025 CDC Recommendations	
75+	RSV vaccine is recommended.
60-74	RSV vaccine recommended for individuals with chronic medical conditions (heart/lung disease) or those live in nursing homes.
8 months or less	1 dose of nirsevimab for all infants younger than 8 months born during or entering their first RSV season.
8 - 19 months	1 dose of nirsevimab for infants and children 8-19 months old who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season.
Pregnant	1 dose of maternal RSV vaccine during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy, administered immediately before or during RSV season. Abrysvo is the only RSV vaccine recommended during pregnancy.

Source: CDC RSVNet

	Vaccine Group	Placebo (Control) Group
Participants (60+)	12,466	12,494
RSV positive	7 (0.0006 %)	40 (0.0032 %)
Severe RSV illness	1 (0.0001 %)	17 (0.0014 %)

Source: February 16, 2023; N Engl J Med 2023; 388:595-608; DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2209604

Pfizer's RSV vaccines have demonstrated strong efficacy against lower respiratory RSV illnesses in older adults over two seasons, with potential protection against severe disease. **The trials were underpowered to show efficacy against RSV hospitalization.** Efficacy against symptomatic illness may indicate efficacy against more severe disease.

Adult Vaccine Coverage:

	Medical Group	Pharmacy Plan
Medicare		X
Medi-Cal		X
Commercial	X	

Prior authorization may be required for some plans

Pediatric Vaccine Coverage:

	Medical Group	Pharmacy Plan
Medi-Cal	VFC list	
Commercial	X	

Where to obtain RSV vaccines

- Medicare members - retail pharmacy
- Medi-Cal members - retail pharmacy
- Commercial members
 - Age > 60 years - submit authorization to medical group with referred to Physicians Plaza Pharmacy; CPT code 90678 or 90679
 - Pediatrics - submit authorization to medical group with referred to Physicians Plaza Pharmacy; CPT code 90380 or 90381

Prescription information:

	Age	Package Insert
Arexvy	- > 60 years of age	https://www.fda.gov/media/167805/download
Abrysvo	- > 60 years of age - Pregnancy at 32-36 gestational weeks	https://www.fda.gov/media/168889/download
Beyfortus	- Neonates and infants born during or entering 1st RSV season - Children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.	https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/761328s000lbl.pdf

Encourage your patients to get vaccinated against RSV if they are at high-risk. Vaccination remains an effective way to prevent severe RSV. Thank you for doing your part to help prevent illness and keep our members healthy.

In good health,
Regal, Lakeside, and ADOC

