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Recommendations for the Use of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine in Pregnancy – Update for the Alaska 2023-2024 Season

January 26, 2024

Summary

Given current circulation of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and the suboptimal supply of Nirsevimab, the Alaska Section of Epidemiology (SOE) **recommends continuing to offer RSVpreF (Pfizer, Abrysvo) vaccination during 32-36 weeks of pregnancy until further notice.**

Background

- The respiratory virus season is well underway with varying shifts in pathogen dominance since September: [AK DOH Respiratory Virus Snapshot](#). RSV circulation remains steady in Alaska.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that vaccination in pregnancy should end January 31, acknowledging that jurisdictions could consider locally-tailored recommendations, especially in areas known to have more unique circulation of RSV such as in Alaska.
- Nirsevimab is a product recommended for use in infants; however, unstable supply has meant not all eligible infants have been immunized. Vaccinating with RSVpreF during late pregnancy is a complementary strategy to ensure that infants can be protected through passive immunity.
- This is the first RSV season where there have been prevention products available and as such recommendations are evolving.

Vaccine Recommendation Extension

- Given current circulation of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and the suboptimal supply of Nirsevimab, the Alaska SOE **recommends continuing to offer RSVpreF vaccination during 32-36 weeks of pregnancy until further notice.**
- We plan to seek CDC/expert guidance about further extending recommendations to maximize protection of infants, as well as to simplify implementation for health care providers and improve consistency in messaging for vaccinations during pregnancy.

Resources

- Alaska SOE RSVpreF *Bulletin*: https://epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/b2023_17.pdf
- Alaska DOH Respiratory Virus Snapshot: <https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/covidandflu.aspx>
- Alaska SOE RSV Webpage: <https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/dod/rsv/default.aspx>
- CDC: [ACIP Evidence to Recommendations for Use of Pfizer RSVpreF in Pregnant People](#)
- CDC: [Healthcare Providers: RSV Vaccination for Pregnant People](#)
- CDC: [Frequently Asked Questions about RSVpreF \(ABrysvo\) Vaccine for Pregnant People](#)