

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend the use of the FDA-approved monoclonal antibody, **Beyfortus (nirsevimab)**, to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection. All of us at Capital Area Pediatrics are excited about the science behind this antibody, its safety and efficacy, and the opportunity to protect our youngest patients from severe illness.

What is RSV?

[Respiratory syncytial virus](#), or 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.

What is Beyfortus?

[Beyfortus](#) (nirsevimab) is a long-acting monoclonal antibody given as an intramuscular injection that is intended to protect children against lower respiratory tract illness (LRTI) caused by RSV. It was shown to be 79% effective in preventing LRTI; 80% effective in preventing hospitalization due to LRTI; and 90% effective in preventing ICU admission due to LRTI.

Who is eligible?

- Infants < 8 months old born during or entering their first RSV season
- Children ages 8-19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease and entering their 2nd RSV season. This would include children with chronic lung disease of prematurity who require medical support during the six months before the start of the 2nd RSV season, children who are severely immunocompromised, children with cystic fibrosis with severe lung disease or weight-for-length below the 10th percentile, American Indian children and Alaska native children.

What is CAP's plan for launching Beyfortus?

- We hope to start administration sometime in October.
- We will be prioritizing our highest risk infants and children.
- We initially plan on administering ONLY in Beyfortus clinics but will eventually be offering in well visits for age-appropriate children.
- Ongoing administration will depend upon supply.
- We do not yet know whether insurance will fully cover the cost, which is estimated to be about \$550 per injection. We will be asking you to sign a waiver that acknowledges insurance may not cover the injection and you will be responsible for the fee.

Regarding the updated COVID booster: We are awaiting shipment! Check back for more info on availability and scheduling!

Flu Vaccine Scheduling

Our CAP providers strongly recommend the annual flu vaccine for all children aged 6 months and above. We are exclusively scheduling flu vaccine through the website [appointments page](#).

Please read below to understand how we plan to immunize our CAP community this year.

1. **Flu vaccine will be offered to every patient during a scheduled office visit.** If your child has a routine visit scheduled in the next few months, please plan to complete the flu vaccine then. If your child is in for another type of visit and is deemed well enough by your provider, your child may receive their flu vaccine then.
2. **Flu vaccine will be offered to only 2 additional family members at well visits and medication checks.** Family members will *NOT* be vaccinated at sick visits.
 - a. To sign up the 2 additional family members, your pre-registration **MUST** be completed at least ONE day before your visit.
 - b. On any day, the office reserves the right to limit offering family members based on vaccine supply and staffing. You will be notified via text if this is the case.
3. **If you do not have an appointment coming up, you can self-schedule on our [appointments page](#) to be scheduled in a flu clinic.**
 - a. If a convenient appointment is not available, please check back as we add new appointments frequently.
 - b. Please check another location if your preferred location is not available.
 - c. You see what we see. We do not have flu vaccine appointments available that are not visible online. Please do not call our office to schedule or send portal requests to schedule, so that we can continue to focus our efforts on our sick patients.