

Vaccines During Pregnancy

Vaccines during pregnancy help protect you from serious infections. Some also pass protective antibodies to your baby before birth, helping protect them during their first months of life.

Which vaccines are recommended?

1. Whooping cough (Tdap)

When: Ideally between 27 and 32 weeks of pregnancy.

Where: Available at our clinic, free of charge.

- Protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).
- Whooping cough can be very serious for newborn babies.
- Recommended during **every pregnancy**, even if you have received the vaccine before.

2. Influenza (flu)

When: At any stage of pregnancy during flu season.

Where: Available at our clinic or through public health, free of charge.

Book a vaccine: [BC Get Vaccinated](#)

- Pregnancy increases the risk of serious complications from influenza.
- Vaccination helps protect you and provides some protection to your baby after birth.
- Choose the injectable flu vaccine, not the live nasal-spray vaccine.

3. COVID-19

When: At any stage of pregnancy, according to current seasonal recommendations.

Where: Available through public health, free of charge, subject to current eligibility.

Book a vaccine: [BC Get Vaccinated](#)

- COVID-19 can cause more serious illness during pregnancy.
- Vaccination helps reduce your risk of severe illness.
- Ask your pharmacist which vaccine and timing are recommended for you.

4. RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)

When: Between 28 and 36 weeks of pregnancy.

Where: Available at participating pharmacies. The private-pay cost is approximately **\$250–\$300**, including administration fees.

RSV is a common respiratory virus that can cause serious lung infections and breathing problems in young babies. The RSV vaccine, called **Abrysvo**, helps your body make antibodies that pass to your baby before birth. These antibodies help protect your baby during their first months of life.

What does the RSV vaccine cost in BC?

- **Private pay:** Approximately \$250–\$300, including administration fees. Prices vary by pharmacy, so confirm the total cost before booking.
- **Public funding:** Abrysvo is generally not publicly funded for everyone in BC.
- **Funding exception:** Eligible First Nations pregnant people can access Abrysvo at no cost through First Nations Health Benefits during the 2026–2027 RSV season, subject to program eligibility and coverage dates.

Some extended health insurance plans may cover the vaccine or administration fee. Each insurance plan is different. To verify your coverage, you will need to contact your insurance provider. Make sure to have the ABRYSVO drug identification number (DIN) handy.

--> ABRYSVO DIN: 02544040

What about RSV protection for my baby?

BC provides a protective antibody medicine called **nirsevimab (Beyfortus)** to eligible infants and children under two who meet the provincial program's criteria. It is not universally funded for every newborn.

Publicly Funded Eligibility Criteria (2026–2027 Season)

- **Prematurity:** Infants born below 35 weeks of gestation.
- **Chronic Medical Conditions:** Infants and children under 2 years of age with specific chronic medical conditions (identified and referred by specialist physicians).
- **Remote or Isolated Communities:** Infants under 6 months of age living in remote or isolated Indigenous communities or settings located far (>100 km) from a hospital.

Are vaccines safe during pregnancy?

Vaccines recommended during pregnancy have been studied for their safety and benefits.

- A sore arm, tiredness, headache or mild fever may occur after vaccination.
- These effects are usually short-lived.
- Some vaccines can be given at the same appointment. Your healthcare provider can advise you.
- Live vaccines, such as measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and chickenpox vaccines, are generally avoided during pregnancy. If needed, they can usually be given after birth.

*Patient information for British Columbia, Canada. Prepared October 2026.
Recommendations, funding and availability may change.*