

**BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program**

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December 14, 2021

BC Pediatricians
BC Hospital Pharmacies
BC RSV Clinics
Partnership Programs

Dear Partners in the BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program:

As you know from the letter we shared with you on September 08, 2021, the RSV Season we are experiencing this year in British Columbia is unusual for its very early occurrence and, as now confirmed, for the larger number of children who are acquiring RSV and getting sick compared to our usual seasons. As of early December, this RSV season still appears to be in its accelerating phase in all health authorities.

Due to the early appearance of RSV in British Columbia this season, we started administering palivizumab (PVZ) on September 13. Consequently, the children who received PVZ early in the season will complete their approved series in December and early January. These children have now been approved to receive one additional PVZ dose, 30 to 40 days after their last approved dose, in order to remain protected.

The RSV Program will communicate with you soon about the need to schedule these children for an additional PVZ dose.

In addition, the RSV Program is amending the British Columbia risk score in the application form so that the points awarded for babies first discharged in January will be 20, up from the previously award of 10 points.

Please:

1. Continue to screen all infants in your centre who may qualify for prophylaxis.
2. Submit applications to the RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program for those children.

As usual, any applications you submit are being reviewed in the usual manner, following categorical criteria as per the application form or by our adjudication panel.

Please remember that PVZ is only one preventative measure for RSV, and is only

administered to infants in the highest risk categories. Public health measures such as hand washing, mask wearing, physical distancing and staying home if ill are encouraged to reduce transmission of respiratory diseases in all populations.

Thank you very much for your support as we continue to respond to this irregular respiratory season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alfonso Solimano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alfonso Solimano, MD, FRCPC
Neonatologist, Division of Neonatology,
BC Women's Health Centre
Clinical Professor, Department of
Pediatrics, UBC
Medical Director, BC RSV Program

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Krempien', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jennifer Krempien, MSc, MHA, CHE
Director, Patient Support Services
BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's
Hospital + Health Centre