

**BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program**

4500 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1

Tel: 604-875-2867 or Toll Free: 1-877-625-7888

Fax: 604-875-2879 or Toll Free: 1-877-625-7555

Email: rsv@cw.bc.ca

January 26, 2022

BC Pediatricians

BC Hospital Pharmacies

BC RSV Clinics

Re: BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program and Palivizumab (Synagis®)

Dear Partners in the BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program:

As you know this has been an extraordinary RSV season that started two months early with an unusually rapid rise in RSV positive case counts, and unusually high RSV positive case counts and positivity rates. Program surveillance has now determined with confidence that RSV positive case counts and positivity rates have rapidly dropped since early January to post-seasonal levels – in every Health Authority.

For these reasons, the BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program has decided that it is now safe to stop the administration of palivizumab.

- 1) The last day of palivizumab administration will be January 28 in all health authorities.
- 2) The usual end-of-season exception will apply for Program-approved NICU babies discharged between January 29 and February 11. These babies will qualify for a single dose of palivizumab.

Due to the unusual patterns seen in the 2021-22 RSV Season that is ending, the BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program will continue in surveillance mode in order to identify possible “echos” resulting in increased numbers or positivity rates after this season’s end. Whereas the data guiding us mostly came from the BC Children’s Hospital Lab, we now have solid provincial data compiled by the BC CDC. Our data surveillance will continue in the off-season and will help us identify if another early season is experienced in 2022-23.

A reminder that palivizumab is only one preventative measure – public health measures such as hand washing, mask wearing, physical distancing and staying home if ill should continue to be encouraged to reduce transmission of respiratory diseases. Palivizumab is only for prophylaxis of infants in the highest risk categories, and not for treatment of disease.

We thank you all for your support of the BC RSV Immunoprophylaxis Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfonso Solimano'.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Krempien'.

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