

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is an enveloped RNA virus, in the same family as the human parainfluenza viruses and mumps and measles viruses. RSV is one of the common viruses that cause coughs and colds in winter. RSV is transmitted by large droplets and by secretions from contact with an infected person.

Infants under one year of age and the elderly are at the greatest risk of developing severe disease. While most RSV infections usually cause mild illness, infants aged less than 6 months frequently develop the most severe disease such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia, which may result in hospitalisation.

From 1 September 2024, 2 new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programmes will be introduced:

Programme for older adults aged 75 to 79 years old

All adults turning 75 years old on or after 1 September 2024 will be eligible for the routine programme and will be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine on or after their 75th birthday. A one-off catch-up campaign for those already aged 75 to 79 years old on 1 September 2024 should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity with the aim of completing the majority by 31 August 2025.

To offer the best protection, it is best to have the vaccination during September and October 2024 prior to the expected RSV season. In line with JCVI guidance, individuals will remain eligible until the day before their 80th birthday, with the exception of people who turn 80 in the first year who have until 31 August 2025 to get vaccinated

Date of Birth	Eligible	Notes
On or before 1 September 1944	No	Individuals aged 80 or above on 1 Sept 2025 are not eligible
Between 2 September 1944 and 31 August 1945	Yes	Remain eligible up to and including 31 August 2025
Between 1 September 1945 and 31 August 1949	Yes	Remain eligible up to and including the day before their 80 th birthday

Programme for pregnant women to protect infants

All women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant (the eligible cohort) on 1 September 2024, will be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. After that, pregnant women will become eligible as they reach 28 weeks gestation and remain eligible up to birth.

On or after 1 September 1949	See note	Individuals become eligible on their 75 th birthday- but not before
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Please ring Scott Park Surgery on 01702 420642 or click the link to book your RSV vaccination appointment when you receive the RSV invitation text from Scott Park Surgery in due course.