

**Dear parents,**

Bronchiolitis epidemics generally start in the autumn and come to an end at the end of the winter, and are often caused by the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). This potentially serious respiratory infection causes inflammation of the small bronchial tubes, and affects children under 12 months of age – with a higher risk of complications and hospitalisation among infants under three months of age.

Bronchiolitis symptoms are:

- cough
- fever
- a blocked nose
- difficulty breathing

If your baby shows these symptoms, promptly consult your paediatrician. In case of any serious signs, such as a change in behaviour, a less responsive baby, eating less, breathing very quickly, very slowly or irregularly, or if your baby's lips or extremities turn blue, take him/her straight to the emergency department.

The following simple prevention measures are recommended:

- Under 3 months of age, limit visits to adult relatives who do not have any illnesses
- Wash your hands (or use a hydro-alcoholic solution) before and after touching the baby
- Wear a mask if you have a cold, a cough or fever
- If the other siblings have symptoms of viral infection, keep them, wherever possible, away from the baby during the acute phase of the infection
- If possible, avoid family reunions and spending time in public places

A preventive treatment is now available: Beyfortus®. This medicine is antibody-based (immunisation), and reduces the risk of RSV infection in children, as a complement to preventive measures. It is administered as a single-dose intramuscular injection.

**The administration of Beyfortus® is recommended in all newborns and infants under one year of age.** The costs of Beyfortus® and of its administration are covered by health insurance, except for the 10% participation.

Beyfortus® should ideally be administered:

- During the month of October for children born between April and September 2024.
- During the first days of life for children born between October 2024 and the end of March 2025

As with any medicine, Beyfortus® may cause side effects. Although uncommon, the possible side effects are:

- skin rash
- reaction at the injection site (redness, swelling and pain)
- fever
- in very rare cases, an allergic reaction

These adverse effects can appear up to a few days after the injection. They are generally of mild to moderate intensity and of short duration.

**The Cantonal Medical Service, the Geneva University Hospitals and the Geneva Society of Paediatrics strongly recommend this treatment for your children.**

For more information, please consult the **Cantonal Medical Service** dedicated website  
<https://www.ge.ch/c/rsv>



The procedures for receiving treatment can be explained to you during your stay in the canton maternity wards or by your child's paediatrician.

**Dr Simon Regard,**  
**Cantonal Physician, ad interim**

**Dr Arnaud L'Huillier**  
**Doctor in charge of the Unit, Paediatric Infectious Diseases Unit, HUG**

**Dr Jean-Yves Corajod,**  
**Head of the Geneva Society of Paediatrics**