

March 12, 2026

Aetna Better Health® of Illinois

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season update

Based on current Illinois respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) surveillance data and updated guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), RSV activity remains elevated statewide, indicating a potentially delayed end to the current RSV season. As a result, the previously anticipated March 31, 2026 “end of season” considerations for immunization are being adjusted as outlined below.

Consistent with national patterns, IDPH reports sustained elevated RSV activity in Illinois, demonstrated by:

- RSV PCR test positivity of **9.4% as of February 14, 2026**
- Elevated emergency department visits among **children ages 0–4 years**
- Increased hospital and ICU admissions across **all age groups**

To ensure continued protection for high-risk individuals throughout the RSV season, the following groups will continue to be covered for RSV immunization through **March 31, 2026**. Any further extension will be communicated based on ongoing disease activity in Illinois:

- **Infants under 8 months of age** born during or entering their first RSV season
- **Children 8 months–19 months of age** who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season
- **Pregnant patients** (available without prior authorization in pharmacy settings):
Patients **32–36 weeks gestation** for whom their clinician determines vaccination would be beneficial based on risk assessment (e.g., preference for maternal RSV vaccination rather than infant immunization, or any identified barriers to infant immunization)

In addition, the following groups continue to be recommended and will remain covered for RSV vaccination year-round if they have not previously received vaccination:

- **Adults ages 50–74 years** at increased risk of severe RSV disease
- **Adults ages 75 years and older**

Questions?

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services at **1-877-782-5565**.

You can also contact your **[Provider Relations Representative](#)** or email us at **ABHILProviderRelations@AETNA.com**.