

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF IMMUNISATION AGAINST RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) IN IRELAND

What are we asking?

We are inviting you to review our draft health technology assessment on RSV immunisation strategies and share your feedback.

The consultation form is available on our website and can be completed online or printed and posted.

The deadline for submissions is 5 pm on 20 January 2026.



Why are we doing this?

This assessment will help inform a long-term policy decision by the Minister for Health on an RSV immunisation strategy for infants and older adults in Ireland.

What is RSV?

RSV is a common viral infection that affects the lungs and upper airways. Typical symptoms include a runny nose, fever, reduced appetite, and difficulty breathing.



Who is most impacted by RSV?

RSV can cause serious illness, particularly in infants, young children, and older adults.



What did we find?

RSV immunisation programmes for infants were recently introduced in 22 European countries, with eight also introducing programmes for older adults.

Protection

- RSV immunisation is safe and effective.
- Immunisation for infants provides protection for a single season. For older adults, it provides protection for up to three seasons, but the benefit decreases over time.

Cost

- Immunising all infants would cost the HSE an additional €50–60 million over five years.
- Immunising adults aged 80+ would cost an additional €70 million over the same period.
- The HSE would have to negotiate substantial price reductions for any of the immunisation strategies reviewed to represent an efficient use of HSE resources.

