

Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. Fall is upon us and we are starting to see more illness creeping into the community. We wanted to take a moment and mention one in particular, RSV - Respiratory Syncytial Virus. This virus is an annual respiratory illness that has symptoms that include moderate - high fevers, significant nasal congestion, and a moderate - severe cough. Unfortunately, RSV is particularly nasty for infants, especially newborns, and we usually have at least one infant hospitalized annually for breathing problems related to RSV.

There is now an injection to protect our most vulnerable infants from RSV. It is called Beyfortus. Eligible infants must be under 8 months old during RSV season - October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026. Beyfortus is a one time injection of RSV antibodies that will last throughout the 2025-2026 RSV season. There are three ways that an infant can be protected this season. The first means is for your infant to come into the office and receive Beyfortus here at Harbor Pediatrics. This is a one-time injection and there will be no further injections necessary. A second means of acquiring protection against RSV is if your OB/GYN provided the RSV injection for mom, 2 weeks before your infant was delivered this year. Our understanding is that pregnant moms have been eligible to receive the "maternal RSV vaccine" starting Sept 1, 2025. So if mom received her RSV vaccine AFTER September 1, 2025 AND delivered 14 days after the injection, then your infant does not need to personally receive Beyfortus. Finally, those infants delivered at Hoag hospital starting Oct 1, 2025 thru March 31, 2026 (and/or other newborn nurseries) will be invited to receive the Beyfortus injection before hospital discharge. This is the same injection that we are offering in the office, therefore, if your child receives it while in the nursery, they will not need a second injection.

If your infant is eligible, we strongly recommend receiving Beyfortus as soon as possible. It is very sad and stressful to watch infants suffer from RSV - sadly, some of us speak from personal experience. We will begin reaching out to eligible infants in the next week to begin scheduling nurse visits. If you believe your child is eligible and have not heard from the office by mid-Oct, please give the office a call, we will check your child's eligibility, and schedule a nurse visit as soon as possible. If your infant has an upcoming well child check in October, we will likely discuss and offer Beyfortus at their visit. **Again, your infant must be younger than 8 months old at the time they receive Beyfortus, and the season will end March 31, 2026.**

We look forward to seeing you in the office soon. Don't forget to get your flu shot - we're giving those to everyone six months and older (parents and grandparents included). Thank you for the continued opportunity to provide for your child's health care, and we hope that you and your family continue to remain healthy this upcoming Fall/Winter.

Sincerely,
Harbor Pediatrics