19th August 2024

**Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme**

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a major respiratory virus that is common over the winter period, typically November to February.

RSV can be especially dangerous for infants therefore, from 1 September 2024, we will be offering you a new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination.

The best way to protect babies against RSV infection is for the mother to have the vaccine during pregnancy from 28 weeks. Vaccination reduces the risk of severe RSV lung infection by around 70% in the first six months of life.

The vaccine boosts the pregnant woman’s immune system to make antibodies that can fight RSV infection. These antibodies then pass through the placenta to help protect the baby from birth.

More information on the RSV vaccination can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-maternal-vaccination/a-guide-to-rsv-vaccination-for-pregnant-women>