



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

**DATE:** September 27, 2021

**CCS Information Notice:** 21-05

**TO:** All County California Children's Services (CCS) Program Administrators and Integrated Systems of Care Division Staff

**SUBJECT:** Update for CCS Information Notice 21-03: Palivizumab for Immunoprophylaxis of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection during 2021-2022

The purpose of this Information Notice is to update the California Children's Services (CCS) program policy regarding the authorization of Palivizumab (Synagis™) for immunoprophylaxis of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection. CCS has removed the requirement that county RSV test positivity data accompany such authorization requests.

**BACKGROUND:**

CCS Information Notice 21-03: Palivizumab for Immunoprophylaxis of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection during 2021-2022, stipulates that authorization requests for doses submitted outside the time period of a typical RSV season such as 2019-2020 should be accompanied by county RSV test positivity data for the time period reflecting the administered dose.

CCS is tracking RSV test positivity rates in conjunction with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), which receives RSV test positivity data from regional sentinel laboratories across California. From these data, CDPH prepares aggregated statewide RSV test positivity reports. These reports, together with those of the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS),<sup>1</sup> now indicate a pattern of test positivity rates more closely resembling a typical RSV season such as 2019-2020. Presently, NREVSS reports that the number of total tests performed weekly in California is substantially below that reported during the last typical RSV season. Available data and current atypical experience thus limit robust inference and prediction; nonetheless, CCS policy prioritizes the best interests of the at-risk population.

## **GUIDANCE FOR CURRENT ATYPICAL RSV SEASON**

CCS Numbered Letter (N.L.) 13-0914<sup>2</sup> describes program policy regarding authorization of Palivizumab immunoprophylaxis of RSV. CCS supports use of Palivizumab in patients who meet criteria specified in N.L. 13-0914, and no longer requires confirmatory data that county of residence RSV activity is consistent with a typical fall-winter season.

For the current apparent RSV season only (2021-2022), more than five doses of Palivizumab may be administered. For the current apparent RSV season only, providers may administer up to a maximum of 9 doses per child, if the child receives the first dose in August; monthly doses from August through April will provide protection through May.

If you have any questions regarding this I.N., please contact the ISCD Medical Director or designee, via e-mail at [ISCD-MedicalPolicy@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:ISCD-MedicalPolicy@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

### **ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Richard Nelson  
Division Chief  
Integrated Systems of Care Division

---

<sup>1</sup> National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html#CA>

<sup>2</sup> CCS Numbered Letter 13-0914  
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Documents/ccsn130914.pdf>