

Vaccines during pregnancy: Safe or Not?



Certain vaccines are safe and are recommended during pregnancy.¹



Vaccines **protect the mother** from getting serious diseases that can be passed on to the newborn.¹



Mothers **develop antibodies** to the vaccines which keeps them healthy. Antibodies cross the placenta and protect the baby from serious diseases early in life.¹

Pregnant women should receive the flu vaccine and the Tdap vaccine during every pregnancy.¹

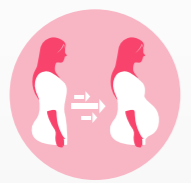
Flu Vaccine¹



The **inactivated flu vaccine** is provided as an injection and not as live nasal flu vaccine.



Protects the mother and baby from influenza-related morbidity and mortality.



Can be provided at any stage during pregnancy.

Tdap Vaccine¹



Recommended in every pregnancy regardless of how long it has been since the mother previously received the dose.



Protects the mother and baby from **pertussis** (whooping cough).



Can be vaccinated at any time during pregnancy but optimally **between 27 and 36 weeks**.



Pregnant women who did not get this **vaccine during pregnancy** can get it immediately after delivering the child.

Some pregnant women should be offered hepatitis B, hepatitis A, meningococcal, and/or pneumococcal vaccines if they have specific risk factors by means of their medical comorbidities or specific exposures.²

References

1. Vaccines During Pregnancy FAQs, Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/vaccines-during-pregnancy.html>. Accessed on: 03 May 2022. **2.** Swamy GK, Heine RP. Vaccinations for pregnant women. *Obstetrics and gynecology*. 2015 Jan;125(1):212.

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Vaccines that may be administered if benefits outweigh risks^{1,2}

Hepatitis A (HEP A)



Administered if mother is at risk. HEP A vaccine is produced from inactivated Hepatitis A Virus (HAV), and is low risk to the developing fetus.

Meningococcal (MenB)



Recommended for pregnant women at risk of exposure and infection.

Yellow fever (YF)



Recommended if travel is unavoidable, and risk of YF exposure is higher than vaccination risk.

Hepatitis B



Indicated for women at risk of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and has no known risks to the fetus.

Vaccines that may be used if otherwise indicated¹

Meningococcal (MenACWY or MPSV4)



Delivered as recommended if a woman is at risk.

Polio (IPV)



Considered for pregnant women with increased risk of infection, and requires immediate protection.

Rabies



May be administered for post-exposure prophylaxis. If risk for exposure is substantial, pre-exposure prophylaxis may also be indicated.

Anthrax



Recommended only if the risk of exposure is high.

References

1. Swamy GK, Heine RP. Vaccinations for pregnant women. *Obstetrics and gynecology*. 2015 Jan;125(1):212.
2. Vaccines During Pregnancy FAQs, Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/vaccines-during-pregnancy.html>. Accessed on: 03 May 2022.

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Vaccines that are not recommended or contraindicated^{1,2}

Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)

- Contraindicated
- Harmful to the fetus

BCG, Varicella, Zoster

- Contraindicated

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

- Contraindicated
- Theoretical risk to the fetus

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- Not recommended
- If a woman is found to be pregnant after initiating the vaccine, the remainder of the 3-dose series should be delayed until the completion of pregnancy

Anthrax

- Not recommended if the risk of exposure is low

Travel vaccines should be avoided during pregnancy. However, the healthcare provider can recommend if the benefits outweigh the risk.¹



- Travel vaccine for yellow fever
- Travel vaccine for typhoid fever
- Travel vaccine for Japanese encephalitis
- Anthrax – low exposure (Travel)

Pregnant women should get vaccinated against COVID-19.³



- Prevents severe illness and death in pregnant women
- 60% reduced risk of COVID-19 hospitalization in babies < 6 months old

Vaccination during pregnancy is a simple and effective way to protect the mother and child from certain infections and prevent serious outcomes.^{1,2}

References

1. Swamy GK, Heine RP. Vaccinations for pregnant women. *Obstetrics and gynecology*. 2015 Jan;125(1):212.
2. Vaccines During Pregnancy FAQs, Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/vaccines-during-pregnancy.html>. Accessed on: 03 May 2022.
3. Effectiveness of Maternal Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy Against COVID-19–Associated Hospitalization in Infants Aged <6 Months— 17 States, July 2021–January 2022. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7107e3.htm>. Accessed on: 03 May 2022.