

# Promote Maternal and Infant Vaccinations as an Essential Component of the State's Strategy to Reduce Infant Mortality



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## Helpful Strategies

**Make a strong recommendation and present it as a standard of care.** Provide specific information and resources regarding the benefits, safety and efficacy of the vaccine at the 1st prenatal visit. Provide scientific data and personal stories. Link the vaccine to other tests if possible to eliminate an extra office visit.

**Provide location details on where they can get the vaccine.** This includes name of location, address, phone number and hours of operation. You may consider providing a selection of options.

**Provide a written prescription.** People may seek vaccines at other locations and some places may require a prescription. Eliminate this barrier by providing one upfront.

**Anticipate questions and be prepared to answer them by providing specific information.** Have resources available and make sure all staff is trained. Be consistent in your messaging. Emphasize that your office may not have all vaccines on hand and follow up with patients to ensure any vaccine not available in your office has been given. You may consider setting up a reminder in your EMR for follow up. Answer all questions promptly including calls from other providers who call about vaccinating your pregnant patient.

## Helpful Links and References

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/hcp-toolkit/pregnant-strong-referral.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/hcp-toolkit/talking-to-pregnant-patients.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/find-vaccines.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/pregnant-women/need-to-know.html>

**Why do I need vaccines during pregnancy?**

Changes in your heart, lungs and immune system during pregnancy make you more likely to get really sick if you get an illness like flu. Getting vaccinated during pregnancy can also give your baby some early protection.

**Which vaccines do I need during pregnancy?**

You need a whooping cough shot (also called Tdap) during the 3rd trimester of each pregnancy. You also need a flu shot, which you can get during any trimester. If you are traveling internationally during your pregnancy, you may need additional vaccines

# Vaccines Routinely Recommended for Pregnant Women

**It is** safe for the flu vaccine and Tdap vaccine to be given to pregnant patients at the same

## Flu Vaccine

- Is recommended for pregnant women and safe to administer during any trimester.
- Is the best way to protect pregnant women and their babies from the flu, and prevent possible flu-associated pregnancy complications.
- Is safe and can help protect the baby from flu for up to 6 months after birth. This is important because babies younger than 6 months of age are too young to get a flu vaccine

## Tdap Vaccine

- Is recommended during every pregnancy, ideally between 27 and 36 weeks gestation.
- When given during pregnancy, boosts antibodies in the mother, which are transplacentally transferred to her developing baby. Third trimester administration optimizes neonatal antibody levels.
- Helps protect infants, who are at greatest risk for developing pertussis and its life-threatening complications, until they are old enough to start the childhood pertus-

For additional information on Maternal and Infant Vaccinations

<https://www.in.gov/health/immunization/adult-immunizations/>

