

LET'S TALK ABOUT VACCINES!

DISCUSSING VACCINATION WITH PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS

December 2023



RECOMMENDED VACCINES*:

Influenza | COVID-19 | Tdap

PHARMACISTS CAN HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS:

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY

- Pregnant individuals experience physiological changes to their immune response during pregnancy, making them **more prone to infections and severe complications** like inadequate foetus size for gestational age, premature birth and increased mortality risk for both the pregnant person and the neonate.¹
- **Vaccination reduces the risk of mortality in infants and pregnant individuals, and the risk of preterm birth.**¹
- Vaccination of pregnant individuals often **provides infants with immunity** until they are old enough to receive vaccines themselves.²
- Vaccines based on **live attenuated viruses should be avoided** in pregnant individuals.³

RECOMMENDED VACCINES

- Receiving a **flu vaccine** during pregnancy has been shown to halve the risk of flu-associated respiratory infections and to reduce the risk of flu complications such as preterm labour, preterm birth and stillbirth.⁴
- It is important for pregnant individuals to receive the **COVID-19** vaccine because they are more likely to get severely ill if infected.⁵
- **Pertussis (whooping cough)** is a serious infection for anyone, but for a newborn it can be life-threatening. Babies under two months old are unable to receive the pertussis vaccine and therefore need to be hospitalised for treatment. It is recommended that pregnant individuals receive the **Tdap vaccine** between the 27th and 36th week of each pregnancy.¹

* Check nationally or locally applicable vaccination guidelines and recommendations and adapt advice accordingly

FOR THESE REASONS, PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS SHOULD GET VACCINATED AGAINST INFLUENZA, COVID-19

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For the bibliography and additional information, check the FIP vaccination microsite:

www.fip.org/letstalkaboutvaccines

