

# What to Know About Maternal Vaccination



## What is maternal vaccination?

By getting vaccinated while pregnant, individuals provide their baby with antibodies.<sup>1</sup> Antibodies help protect the infant against infections during their first few months of life, when they are most vulnerable.

During pregnancy, antibodies pass from the parent to the fetus through the placenta. This starts in the second trimester and peaks in the third, providing the infant with protection against infections after birth. Vaccination during pregnancy increases maternal antibody levels, improving the chances of transferring enough antibodies to the fetus to reduce the infant's risk of illness.

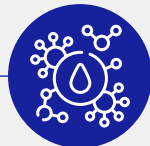


## How do maternal vaccines work?<sup>2</sup>



1.

The pregnant person receives a recommended vaccine.



2.

The vaccine helps the immune system develop antibodies to help fight off infection.



3.

These antibodies pass through the bloodstream to the placenta—the organ responsible for delivering nutrients and oxygen to the fetus.



4.

The antibodies move into the fetus' blood stream, helping to keep the baby protected from severe illness when they are born. This also protects the baby if they are too young to be vaccinated at birth.



## Why is maternal vaccination important?

Pregnant people and their babies are at increased risk for complications from infectious respiratory illness.<sup>3</sup> Getting vaccinated can help protect pregnant people and/or their infants against severe illness caused by these germs.



## Which vaccines are recommended during pregnancy by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)?<sup>4</sup>

COVID-19	INFLUENZA (FLU)	RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)	Tdap FOR PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)
COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older, including those who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to conceive, or may become pregnant in the future. You can receive the COVID-19 vaccine at any point during your pregnancy.	The CDC recommends getting a flu shot if you are pregnant during flu season, ideally in September or October. If you are in your third trimester, vaccination may also be considered as early as July or August. You can receive the flu vaccine at any point during your pregnancy.	Pregnant individuals are recommended to receive the maternal RSV vaccine between weeks 32 and 36 of pregnancy, typically administered from September through January. Receiving the RSV vaccine during pregnancy helps protect your infant from RSV starting at birth.	The CDC recommends receiving a Tdap vaccine during each pregnancy, ideally between weeks 27 and 36. Vaccination earlier in this window helps pass the highest amount of protective antibodies to your baby, offering protection during their first months of life when they are most vulnerable to severe illness.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8113393/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/bdra.23547>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-pregnancy/hcp/maternal-vaccines>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-pregnancy/about/index.html>