CVEEP

What to Know About: Maternal Vaccination



What is Maternal Vaccination?

Maternal vaccination is an important part of prenatal care. Recommended vaccines can help protect pregnant women from severe illness while also providing early protection for their babies. Vaccines given during pregnancy help the mother's immune system produce protective antibodies that can pass to the baby before birth. These antibodies can help protect babies during their first few months of life, when they are especially vulnerable to severe illness.

How do maternal vaccines work?

- The pregnant woman receives a recommended vaccine.
- The vaccine helps her immune system make antibodies that help fight infection.
- These antibodies travel through the bloodstream and cross the placenta, the organ that provides oxygen and nutrients to the baby during pregnancy.
- The antibodies pass into the baby's bloodstream, helping protect the baby from severe illness during their first few months of life, when they may be too young to receive certain vaccines.

Why is maternal vaccination important?

Pregnant women and their babies are at increased risk for complications from respiratory illnesses. What starts as a cough, fever, or runny nose can sometimes lead to serious illness, including trouble breathing or a hospital stay. Getting recommended vaccines during pregnancy can help protect pregnant women and thier babies from severe illness.

Which vaccines are recommended during pregnancy?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and leading medical societies recommend the following maternal vaccines:

COVID-19

CDC and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommend COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women at any trimester.

Influenza (Flu)

Flu vaccines are recommended for all pregnant women, at any trimester, annually.

Pregnant women should not receive the nasal flu vaccine.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV vaccines are recommended for pregnant women who are 32-36 weeks along during RSV season.

CDC recommends vaccination from September through January in most of the continental U.S., while ACOG recommends vaccination from September 1 through March 1. Talk to your healthcare provider about when to get vaccinated.

**RSV season can vary around the country. If you live in Alaska, Florida, or outside the continental U.S., talk to a healthcare provider about when RSV season is expected where you live.*

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis)

Tdap vaccines are recommended for pregnant women between 27-36 weeks, as early in that window as possible.

Tdap vaccines are recommended during each pregnancy to protect the newborn from pertussis (whooping cough).



Protect yourself and your baby.

Learn more about vaccination during pregnancy and find a vaccination location near you.

[1] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8113393/
[2] https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/bdra.23547
[3] https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-pregnancy/hcp/maternal-vaccines

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