






Vaccines and pregnancy

Issue brief

Key points

 <p>Pregnant people are more likely to develop serious illness with flu and COVID-19¹.</p>	 <p>The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommend the flu, Tdap, RSV, and COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant people.¹</p>	 <p>Tdap protects against whooping cough, which affects half of all babies one year or younger and can be life-threatening.²</p>
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Background

Maternal immunizations protect moms and babies from deadly infectious diseases. Since newborns are too young to receive vaccinations, maternal immunizations provide critical protection for them.²

Maternal and infant outcomes



Fever, a common symptom for any infectious disease, may result in neural tube defects or other adverse outcomes in developing babies.¹



Nearly 7 in 10 deaths from whooping cough are babies who are too young to receive a Tdap vaccine.²



Babies born to moms who receive Tdap vaccines while pregnant were 77.7% less likely to develop whooping cough.²



Data shows that vaccination during pregnancy can assist in protecting babies younger than six months from hospitalization due to flu, RSV, and COVID-19.¹



Racial, economic, and geographic disparities exist in the uptake of vaccines during pregnancy leaving the most vulnerable populations at risk.¹

Policy recommendations

Pregnant and lactating people need more safety and efficacy data on vaccines, more access to and receipt of vaccines, and improved implementation of vaccine programs.²

marchofdimes.org/vaccines

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/pregnant-women/need-to-know.html>

² <https://i7g4f9j6.stackpathcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/09220856/Improving-Maternal-Immunization-Status-White-Paper-Final.pdf>