

# Immunization & Pregnancy

Vaccines help keep a pregnant woman and her growing family healthy.

## Before pregnancy

Before becoming pregnant, a woman should be up-to-date on routine adult vaccines. This will help protect her and her child. Live vaccines should be given a month or more before pregnancy. Inactivated vaccines can be given before or during pregnancy, if needed.

## During pregnancy

Did you know that a mother's immunity is passed along to her baby during pregnancy? This will protect the baby from some diseases during the first few months of life until the baby can get vaccinated.

### ▶ Flu Vaccine

It is safe, and very important, for a pregnant woman to receive the inactivated flu vaccine. A pregnant woman who gets the flu is at risk for serious complications and hospitalization. To learn more about preventing the flu, visit the CDC website [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

### ▶ Tdap Vaccine

Women should get adult tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) during each pregnancy. Ideally, the vaccine should be given between 27 and 36 weeks of pregnancy.

### ▶ Travel

Many vaccine-preventable diseases, rarely seen in the United States, are still common in other parts of the world. A pregnant woman planning international travel should talk to her health professional about vaccines. Information about travel vaccines can be found at CDC's traveler's health website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).

### ▶ Childhood Vaccines

Pregnancy is a good time to learn about childhood vaccines. Parents-to-be can learn more about childhood vaccines from the CDC parents guide and from the child and adolescent vaccination schedules. This information can be downloaded and printed at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines).

## After pregnancy

It is safe for a woman to receive routine vaccines right after giving birth, even while she is breastfeeding. A woman who has not received the new vaccine for the prevention of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) should be vaccinated right after delivery. Vaccinating a new mother against pertussis (whooping cough) reduces the risk to her infant too. Also, a woman who is not immune to measles, mumps and rubella and/or varicella (chicken pox) should be vaccinated before leaving the hospital. If inactivated influenza vaccine was not given during pregnancy, a woman should receive it now because it will protect her infant. LAIV may be an option.

Visit CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for more information. Or get an answer to your specific question by e-mailing [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov) or calling 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) · English or Spanish

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases  
Immunization Services Division

