



Vaccinating Pregnant Women Protects Moms and Babies

Vital Signs – October 2019

- Influenza and whooping cough can be deadly, especially in a baby's first few months of life.
- Vaccinating women against these diseases during each pregnancy helps protect both them and their babies.
- Women with influenza are more than twice as likely to be hospitalized if they are pregnant.
- 69% of reported whooping cough deaths occur in babies less than 2 months old.
- However, only 1 in 3 US pregnant women receive the flu (influenza) shot and whooping cough vaccine (Tdap).
- Studies show flu vaccine and Tdap are very safe for pregnant women and their developing babies.
- CDC recommends all pregnant women receive flu vaccine and Tdap during each pregnancy.
- Pregnant women who get vaccinated pass antibodies to their babies, which protects babies for several months after birth.
- What can pregnant women, health care providers, and everyone do to protect moms and babies from disease?
- Find answers at www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns