

*Protect your baby . . .* VACCINE SAFETY DURING PREGNANCY

HOW DOES GETTING VACCINATED DURING PREGNANCY PROTECT MY UNBORN BABY

Newborns cannot receive many vaccines until 2 – 6 months of age. Some of the protection from vaccines that Mom receives is transferred to your baby during pregnancy. This helps protect your baby from illness during the first few months of life.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT VACCINES I NEED ?

Discuss the vaccines you have had with our Doctors. We will recommend the vaccines you need based on your medical history and lifestyle. If you do not receive recommended vaccines during pregnancy, you should get them immediately after your baby is born.

ARE VACCINES SAFE FOR ME? ARE VACCINES SAFE FOR MY BABY ?

Vaccines are one of the most important things you can do for you and your baby. Vaccines help protect you and your baby from diseases that you are both at risk of and can make you seriously ill. Vaccination is safe for you and your baby, For example: flu vaccines have been given safely to millions of pregnant women for more than 50 years.

I HAVE HEARD SOME VACCINES CONTAIN MERCURY. IS GETTING THESE VACCINES DURING PREGNANCY SAFE FOR MY BABY ?

Thimerosal, a type of mercury, has not been shown to be harmful to pregnant women or unborn babies, and it DOES NOT cause autism. The benefits of preventing life-threatening illnesses in a mother and child outweigh any potential risks of the vaccine.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VACCINES FOR ME AND MY FAMILY?

To find accurate, trusted information: visit [www.immunizationforwomen.org](http://www.immunizationforwomen.org), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TDAP VACCINATION

WHAT IS PERTUSSIS ?

Pertussis (also called whooping cough) is a highly contagious disease causing severe coughing. People with Pertussis make a "whooping" sound when they try to breathe. **In newborns pertussis can be a life-threatening illness.** It can be prevented with a vaccine called the tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

I AM PREGNANT. SHOULD I GET THE TDAP SHOT ?

Yes, if you have never received the Tdap vaccine before, you should receive it late in your second trimester (after 20 weeks) or third trimester of pregnancy. The Tdap vaccine is an effective and safe way to protect you and your baby from serious illness and complications from pertussis.

Please continue reading...turn **OVER**

10801 LOCKWOOD DR, # 310 / 320

SILVER SPRING, MD 20901

301.681.3400 P

301.681.7982 F

19851 OBSERVATION DR. # 345

GERMANTOWN, MD 20876

301.681.3400 P

240.912.7216 F

I AM PLANNING ON BECOMING PREGNANT. IS IT RECOMMENDED THAT I RECEIVE THE TDAP SHOT ?

Yes. All adults should receive a single dose of Tdap. If you have not received a Tdap vaccination before, you can receive a Tdap vaccination now.

CAN NEWBORNS BE VACCINATED AGAINST PERTUSSIS ?

No, infants are at risk of getting pertussis until they can be vaccinated at 2 months of age.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO PROTECT MY BABY AGAINST PERTUSSIS ?

Getting your Tdap shot is the most important step in protecting yourself and your baby against whooping cough. It is also important to make sure all family members and care givers are up to date with their vaccines and, if necessary, that they receive the Tdap vaccination at least 2 weeks before having contact with your baby. This creates a safety "cocoon" of vaccinated caregivers around your baby.

I AM BREASTFEEDING MY BABY. IS IT SAFE TO GET VACCINATED WITH TDAP ?

Yes. A Tdap shot can safely be given to breastfeeding mothers if they did not get the vaccine while they were pregnant.

I DID NOT RECEIVE MY TDAP SHOT DURING PREGNANCY. DO I STILL NEED TO BE VACCINATED ?

Yes. If you needed the vaccine and you were not vaccinated with Tdap during pregnancy, you should receive your Tdap shot immediately after your baby is born.

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