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Vaccine Safety in Pregnancy

Q: How do vaccines protect my unborn baby?

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

Q: How do I know what vaccines I need?

A: Discuss the vaccines you have had with your providers. We will recommend the vaccines you need based on your medical history and lifestyle. If you do not receive the recommended vaccines during pregnancy, you will be offered them in the hospital after your baby is born.

Q: Are vaccines safe for me and my baby?

A: 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 for. Vaccinations are safe for you and your baby.

Q: Some vaccines contain mercury, is that safe for me and my baby?

A: 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.

Q: Where can I find more information about vaccines?

A: You can find accurate, trusted information at www.immunizationforwomen.org, www.cdc.gov and www.flu.gov