

DISCUSSING VACCINATION WITH PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS

Staying up to date with flu vaccinations during pregnancy is essential as it not only protects the expectant mother from potential complications but also provides vital immunity to the developing baby, ensuring a healthier start to life.

PHARMACISTS SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY

- Pregnant individuals experience physiological changes to their immune response during pregnancy, making them more prone to infections and severe complications like inadequate fetus size for gestational age, premature birth, and increased mortality risk for both the pregnant person and the neonate.
- Vaccination reduces the risk of mortality in infants and pregnant individuals, and the risk of preterm birth.
- Vaccination of pregnant individuals often provides infants with immunity until they are old enough to receive vaccines themselves
- Vaccines based on live attenuated viruses should be avoided in pregnant individuals.

RECOMMENDED VACCINES

- Receiving a flu vaccine during pregnancy has been shown to halve the risk of flu-associated respiratory infections and to reduce the risk of flu complications such as preterm labour, preterm birth, and stillbirth.
- Pertussis (whooping cough) is a serious infection for anyone, but for a newborn, it can be life-threatening.
- Babies under two months old are unable to receive the pertussis vaccine and therefore need to be hospitalised for treatment. It is recommended that pregnant individuals receive the Tdap vaccine between the 27th and 36th week of each pregnancy.

