

VACCINES AND PREGNANCY

Please call our office at **920.729.7105** if you have any questions.

HOW DOES GETTING VACCINATED DURING PREGNANCY PROTECT MY BABY?

Vaccines cause the body to create antibodies. Antibodies are proteins that can identify bacteria and viruses and stop them from entering cells and making a person sick. After you get a vaccine during pregnancy and your body creates antibodies, some of those antibodies pass to the fetus. This means the baby will have the antibodies to protect against disease after birth.

Antibodies are a safe, normal reaction to a vaccine. They protect your baby during the first few months of life until your baby can be vaccinated.

WHICH VACCINES MAY BE GIVEN DURING PREGNANCY?

It is safe to get vaccines for the flu, whooping cough, COVID-19, RSV, hepatitis, pneumonia, and certain types of meningitis during pregnancy. These vaccines are recommended during each pregnancy:

Tdap vaccine

This vaccine protects against whooping cough. Tdap vaccines are recommended during the third trimester of each pregnancy. We also recommend any family or friends caring for the baby to get a Tdap vaccine booster. Your significant other can receive this in our office as well.

Flu vaccine

The flu is a serious illness that can be much more severe during pregnancy. You should get a flu vaccine if you are pregnant during flu season (October through May). It is best to get the flu vaccine early in the flu season, as soon as the vaccine is available. This can be given at any time throughout the pregnancy.

RSV vaccine

This vaccine protects against RSV and the severe lower respiratory tract infection it may cause. You should get this vaccine if you are pregnant or due during RSV season (September through January). It is the safest to get this vaccine between 32 0/7 and 36 6/7 weeks of gestation.

COVID-19 vaccine

If you are pregnant and not up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines, you should get the currently recommended vaccine series or booster any time during your pregnancy.

Other vaccines are recommended for adults based on their risk of getting a particular disease. Talk with your ob/gyn about the vaccines that you have had in the past. Your ob/gyn may recommend vaccines based on your medical history and occupation.

