PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2021 – PAHAN - 586 – 08-13-ADV
COVID-19 Vaccination during Pregnancy

DATE:	August 13, 2021
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Alison Beam, JD, Acting Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	**COVID-19 Vaccination during Pregnancy**
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	n/a
COUNTY:	n/a
MUNICIPALITY:	n/a
ZIP CODE:	n/a

This transmission is a "Health Advisory" provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS**: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL**; EMS COUNCILS: **PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE**; FQHCs: **PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE**; LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS**: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Summary
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is alerting healthcare facilities and providers caring for/providing services to pregnant people about the CDC's recommendation that pregnant people should be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- **CDC recommends that pregnant people should be vaccinated against COVID-19.**
- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future.
- Evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy has been growing. These data suggest that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy.
- CDC released the first U.S. data on the safety of receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy. These early data did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated or their babies https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2104983
- There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in women or men.
- Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html
- Healthcare facilities, providers and laboratories should ensure all persons diagnosed with COVID-19 are reported via PA-NEDSS and the pregnancy status is included in each report.
- Please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH or your local health department if you have any questions about this condition or if you have any cases you would like to report.

The Department of Health (DOH) is releasing the following information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.

Background

[Pregnant and recently pregnant people](#) are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 when compared with non-pregnant people. Severe illness includes illness that requires hospitalization, intensive care, need for a ventilator or special equipment to breathe, or illness that results in death. Additionally, pregnant people with COVID-19 infection are at an increased risk of delivering preterm and might be at increased risk of other adverse pregnancy outcomes when compared with pregnant people without a COVID-19 infection. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine protects pregnant and recently pregnant people from severe illness from COVID-19.

Evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy has been growing. These data suggest that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy. Early data on the safety of receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) during pregnancy are reassuring:

- CDC released the first U.S. data on the safety of receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy. The report analyzed data from three [safety monitoring systems](#) used to gather information about COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy. These early data did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated, or their babies ([Preliminary Findings of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine Safety in Pregnant Persons | NEJM](#))
- Another report looked at pregnant people enrolled in the [v-safe pregnancy registry](#) who were vaccinated before 20 weeks of pregnancy. Scientists did not find an increased risk for miscarriage among people who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy (https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-798175/v1).
- Many pregnancies reported in these safety monitoring systems are ongoing. CDC will continue to follow people vaccinated during all trimesters of pregnancy to better understand effects on pregnancy and babies.

Additionally, there is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in women or men.

Recommendations for Health Care Providers

1. **CDC recommends that pregnant people should be vaccinated against COVID-19.** COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now or might become pregnant in the future.
2. CDC recommendations align with those from professional medical organizations serving people who are pregnant, including the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) and the [Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine](#).
3. Evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy are reassuring and can help inform discussions about COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy between pregnant people and their healthcare providers.
4. All pregnant people receiving a COVID-19 vaccine should consider participating in CDC's [v-safe](#) pregnancy registry, which is a smartphone-based tool to provide check-ins after vaccination. Participation is voluntary and participants may opt out at any time.
5. Report adverse events to [VAERS](#), including serious and life-threatening adverse events and deaths in patients following receipt of COVID-19 vaccines as required under the Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines.
6. Ensure all persons diagnosed with COVID-19 are reported to the DOH web-based electronic disease surveillance system, PA-NEDSS: https://www.nedss.state.pa.us/nedss/default.aspx
   a. Refer to the [instructions](#) for reporting cases to PA-NEDSS. Please assure that **pregnancy status** is accurately completed.

If you have questions about this guidance, please call your local health department or 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

Individuals interested in receiving further PA-HAN communiqués are encouraged to register at https://han.pa.gov/.

This information is current as of August 13, 2021 but may be modified in the future.