VACCINES
FOR PREGNANT PEOPLE

Staying healthy during pregnancy is not just important for the health of the pregnant person, but also for the health of the baby. Pregnant people, their families, and anyone coming in close contact with a baby should talk to their healthcare providers about getting these vaccines.

Pertussis / Whooping Cough

What is the Risk to Pregnant People and Babies?

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, can cause serious and life-threatening complications in young babies.

More than 50% of babies that contract whooping cough end up hospitalized with breathing problems.

On average, 10,000 to 50,000 people get whooping cough each year, and that number has been increasing in recent years.

Is the Vaccine Safe?

The Tdap vaccine, which protects against Whooping Cough, is very safe for pregnant people and their babies.

It does not contain live virus and cannot make anyone sick.

Why Should I Get the Tdap Vaccine?

People who get the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy pass antibodies to their baby during pregnancy. Getting a Tdap vaccine during every pregnancy – between 27 and 36 weeks – gives the baby the greatest number of protective antibodies possible and lowers the risk of whooping cough in babies younger than 2 months by 78%.

People who get the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy may pass antibodies to their babies through breast milk after the baby is born. This will help to protect the baby until they can get their own vaccine.

References

