



Considerations for Engaging in COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling with Pregnant Women

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With the recent increases in COVID-19 cases in Nevada, we are seeing a significant increase in hospital admissions of pregnant women and severe complications. This increase in hospitalizations is not surprising, considering the low rate of vaccination in this population and the risk of pregnancy as a factor for worsening disease.

Due to the above concerns, **we strongly recommend that all pregnant patients without associated contraindications be counseled on vaccination with the current mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) at their first prenatal visit.**

Essential notes for counseling include:

- 1) Pregnancy itself is a risk factor for hospitalization and severe disease from COVID-19
 - a. **Three times increase of ICU admission**
 - b. **2.4 times more likely for ECMO**
 - c. **1.7 times increased risk of death**
- 2) As of July 19, 2021, more than 136,000 pregnant women have been vaccinated for COVID-19
- 3) Among preliminary data, there was no increase in adverse pregnancy outcomes or neonatal outcomes in patients vaccinated during pregnancy
- 4) Data show an increased risk of severe obstetric outcomes, including preterm birth, cesarean delivery, and possible stillbirth in pregnant women with symptomatic COVID-19 infection. 5) Antibodies from vaccination cross the placenta and may theoretically provide protections to neonates in utero and during lactation
- 6) Vaccination dramatically reduces the risk of severe infection and hospitalization. 7) The SMFM recommends that vaccination should be offered independent of the trimester- hence **withholding vaccination in the first trimester is not warranted.**

Thank you in advance for your discussion of this important topic with your

patients. **CDC Resources on following page.**



CDC Resources

Healthcare workers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/vaccination.html>

Safety monitoring:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

CDC vaccine guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendationsprocess.html#groups-considered>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccinesus.html#pregnant>

CDC v-safe:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>