

Vaccinations for Pregnant Women

The table below shows which vaccinations you may or may not need during your pregnancy.

Vaccine	Do you need it during your pregnancy?
Influenza	Yes! You need a flu shot every fall (or even as late as winter or spring) for your protection and for the protection of your baby and others around you. It's safe to get the vaccine at any time during your pregnancy.
Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis) (Tdap, Td)	Yes! Women who are pregnant need a dose of Tdap vaccine (the adult whooping cough vaccine) during <i>each</i> pregnancy, preferably in the early part of the third trimester. It's safe to be given during pregnancy and will help protect your baby against whooping cough in the early months of life when he or she is most vulnerable. After Tdap, you need a Td booster dose every 10 years. Consult your healthcare provider if you haven't had at least 3 tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing shots sometime in your life or if you have a deep or dirty wound.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	No. This vaccine is not recommended to be given during pregnancy, but if you inadvertently receive it, this is not a cause for concern. HPV vaccine is recommended for all women age 26 or younger, so if you are in this age group, make sure you are vaccinated before or after your pregnancy. The vaccine is given in 2 or 3 doses (depending on the age at which the first dose is given) over a 6-month period.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	No. MMR vaccine is not recommended to be given during pregnancy, but if you somehow do receive it, this is not a cause for concern. At least 1 dose of MMR is recommended for you if you were born in 1957 or later. (And you may need a second dose.*) During your prenatal care, your healthcare provider will test your blood to assess your need for MMR following your delivery. It's best for you (and any future baby) to receive the protection vaccination provides before trying to become pregnant.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	No. Varicella vaccine is not recommended to be given during pregnancy, but if you inadvertently receive it, this is not a cause for concern. If you've never had chickenpox, never were vaccinated, or were vaccinated but received only 1 dose, it's best for you (and any future baby) to be protected with the vaccine before trying to become pregnant, or after you've completed your pregnancy. The vaccine is given in 2 doses 4–8 weeks apart.
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Maybe. You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis A virus infection* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is usually given in 2 doses, 6–12 months apart. If you need to get or continue the HepA vaccine series, it's safe to do so during pregnancy.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Maybe. You need this vaccine if you have a specific risk factor for hepatitis B virus infection* or simply want to be protected from this disease. The vaccine is given in 3 doses, usually over 6 months. If you need to get or continue the HepB vaccine series, it's safe to do so during pregnancy. It's important, too, that your newborn baby gets started on his or her hepatitis B vaccination series before leaving the hospital.
Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)	Maybe. Some adults with certain high-risk conditions, for example, lack of a functioning spleen, need vaccination with Hib. If you need to get Hib vaccine, it's safe to receive it at any time during your pregnancy.
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY, MCV4)	Maybe. You may need MenACWY vaccine if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you don't have a functioning spleen. You need MenACWY if you are age 21 or younger and a first-year college student living in a residence hall and you either have never been vaccinated or were vaccinated before age 16. During pregnancy, if you need MenACWY, it is safe to receive it.
Meningococcal B (MenB)	Maybe. You should consider MenB vaccine if you are age 23 or younger (even if you don't have a high-risk medical condition). You may need MenB if you have one of several health conditions,* for example, if you do not have a functioning spleen. Because no studies have been conducted on MenB vaccine in pregnant women, your healthcare provider will need to determine if the benefits of vaccination are considered to outweigh the potential risks.
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax, PPSV; Prevnar, PCV)	Maybe. You need 1 or both of these vaccines if you have a certain risk factor* for pneumococcal disease, for example, diabetes (but not gestational diabetes). If you're unsure of your risk, talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you need either of these vaccines. If you are a candidate for either pneumococcal vaccine, it's safe to get it during pregnancy.

* Consult your healthcare provider to determine your level of risk for infection and your need for this vaccine.

Are you planning to travel outside the United States? Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list for travel information, or consult a travel clinic.