

**Statement on the Safety of Influenza Vaccination for Pregnant Women
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As questions regarding the safety of influenza vaccination in pregnant women persist, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) fully believes that vaccines remain the best defense we have against influenza, and play a vital role in protecting the health of communities. Safe and effective vaccines have been one of the most successful public health measures available with an unparalleled record of disease and disability reduction and prevention.

Confidence in the safety of vaccines is critical to assuring that vaccines are used widely, effectively, and appropriately as possible. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) use our nation's vaccine safety systems, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), to carefully study, evaluate, and monitor vaccine safety and efficacy. Studies, such as one recently published in *Vaccine*, represent important efforts that must continue to better elucidate potential associations between vaccines and adverse outcomes. As no published data have confirmed an association between influenza infection and miscarriage, the CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) continue to strongly recommend universal influenza vaccination for everyone six months and older, including pregnant women during any trimester of their pregnancy.

Influenza can be dangerous for pregnant women and their developing baby, and pregnant women are considered to be a group at high risk of serious influenza complications, including those indicated with H1N1 influenza. To prevent such complications, vaccination can protect pregnant women and their babies from influenza. Vaccination during pregnancy also protects infants from infection after birth, particularly as babies younger than six months of age are too young to receive an influenza vaccine. Pregnant women should consult their health care providers to discuss vaccine safety concerns and learn about recommended vaccinations during pregnancy. Influenza vaccines continue to have a long and very good safety record, and many vaccine effectiveness studies show that getting an influenza vaccine reduces risk of illness by 40-60%. As the nation enters another influenza season, we must continue to educate and inform the public on the overall positive effect influenza vaccines have on public health, especially among vulnerable or at-risk populations.

For more information on immunization, including [vaccine safety](#), view NACCHO's Immunization [policy statements](#).

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