



The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

## Frequently Asked Questions for Patients Concerning Vaccine Safety

### **How does getting vaccinated during pregnancy protect my unborn baby?**

Newborns cannot receive many vaccines until 2–6 months of age. Some of the protection from the vaccines that you get is transferred to your baby during pregnancy. This helps protect your baby from illness during the first months of life.

### **How do I know what vaccines I need?**

Discuss the vaccines that you have had with your health care provider. Your health care provider will recommend the vaccines you need based on your medical history and lifestyle. If you do not receive recommended vaccines during pregnancy, you should get them immediately after your baby is born.

### **Are vaccines safe for me? Are vaccines safe for my baby?**

Vaccination is one of the most important things that you can do for yourself and your baby. Vaccines help protect you and your baby from diseases that you both are at risk of and can make you both seriously ill. Vaccination is safe for you and your baby. For example, flu vaccines have been given safely to millions of pregnant women for more than 50 years.

### **I have heard that some vaccines contain mercury. Is getting these vaccines during pregnancy safe for my baby?**

Thimerosal, a type of mercury, has not been shown to be harmful to pregnant women or unborn babies, and it does not cause autism. The benefits of preventing life-threatening illnesses in a mother and child far outweigh any potential risks of the vaccine.

### **Where can I find more information about vaccines for me and my family?**

To find accurate, trusted information, visit [www.immunizationforwomen.org](http://www.immunizationforwomen.org), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), and [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

*(see reverse)*

## RESOURCES

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Immunization for Women  
[www.immunizationforwomen.org](http://www.immunizationforwomen.org)

American Medical Association  
[www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)

Society for Maternal–Fetal Medicine  
[www.smfm.org](http://www.smfm.org)