



February Immunization Newsletter

Taking Action to Prevent & Treat Flu, Protect High-Risk Populations: A Page from Duke's Handbook

In response to this year's particularly widespread and deadly influenza season, Dr. Geeta Swamy of Duke University addressed her ob-gyn colleagues in Duke's weekly newsletter urging them to follow guidelines for prevention, identification, and treatment of influenza in pregnant women. See highlights from Dr. Swamy's article below, and **strongly consider sharing these messages with your colleagues.**

"Per the CDC's [FluView weekly surveillance](#), flu activity is increasing with widespread activity throughout the US. While many infected individuals feel unwell for 1-2 weeks, influenza is associated with serious complications including pneumonia, hospitalization, and death in **high-risk populations, namely young children, pregnant women, older and chronically ill persons.**"

"The CDC and ACOG recommend that all individuals > 6 months of age receive an annual influenza vaccine as the most effective way to prevent infection."

"It is imperative that we promptly recognize the symptoms, adequately assess severity, and readily prescribe safe and effective antiviral therapy. Symptoms of influenza infection include:

- Fever >100°F (not required)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headaches and/or body aches
- Fatigue
- Difficulty breathing

"As pregnant women are at high risk of serious flu-related complications, such as ICU admission, preterm birth, and maternal death, pregnant women with flu-like illness should be treated with antiviral medications presumptively, **regardless of vaccination status, laboratory test result, or time since onset of symptoms.**"

"The [ACOG/SMFM influenza algorithm](#) guides practitioners through the prompt assessment and treatment of flu-like illness in pregnant women including guidance on assessing severity such as dehydration, co-morbidities, O2 saturation and chest x-ray. You may want to display the algorithm in provider/staff work areas as a reminder or bookmark it on your phone web browser for quick and easy access."

Upcoming Webinar: Maternal Immunization: Understanding Safety & Efficacy and Making a Strong Recommendation



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), in partnership with American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC), is presenting a webinar, *Maternal Immunization: Understanding Safety and Efficacy and Making a Strong Recommendation* on **Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 5:00 PM ET (2:00 PM PT)**.

This free, 1 CME credit webinar will provide information on the safety and efficacy of maternal information and will give example of how to address these topics with patients by making a strong recommendation. The webinar will also identify resources for providers and patients regarding maternal immunizations. Continuing Medical Education credit is provided through joint providership with The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. [Click here to register!](#)

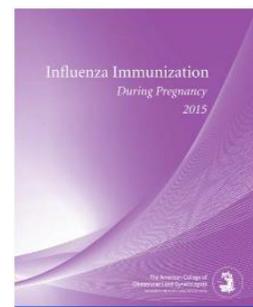
ACOG's NEW Immunization Champion Award

Are you or someone you know an immunization champion? We want to hear about your efforts! Nominate yourself or your colleague(s) for a chance to be recognized nationally as an ACOG Immunization Champion. Winners will receive a \$1,500 honorarium, an award to display in their office and will be highlighted in ACOG's Immunization Newsletter which is e-mailed to all ACOG members. Awardees will also be added to ACOG's [Immunization Champion Honor Roll](#) on ACOG's [Immunization for Women](#) website. Nominations will be accepted until March 1, 2018 and the winners will be selected by April 1, 2018. [Submit your nomination today!](#)

ACOG Influenza Vaccination during Pregnancy Toolkit

Visit [ACOG's Immunization for Women](#) website to access ACOG's [Influenza Immunization During Pregnancy Toolkit](#), which includes:

- [FAQ's for Patients Concerning Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccination During Pregnancy,](#)
- [FAQ's for Patients Concerning Vaccine Safety,](#)
- [FAQ's Concerning Seasonal Influenza for Ob-Gyn,](#)
- [Flu Vaccine Information Statement,](#) and
- ACOG's [Influenza Season Assessment and Treatment for Pregnant Women with Influenza-Like Illness](#)



ACOG's Immunization Applet

Download the [ACOG app](#) and stay connected with authoritative information from the leading experts in women's health care. The immunization applet is part of the ACOG app and is a trusted and interactive resource on immunization best practices. The app includes an interactive "By Profile" feature in which recommended immunizations are generated based on the information providers enter about their patient's age and conditions.



Zika Virus Update

See ACOG and SMFM's [Practice Advisory](#) on Zika Virus.

Regardless of location, providers should evaluate all pregnant women in the United States for possible Zika virus exposure during each prenatal care visit. This evaluation should include an assessment of signs and symptoms of Zika virus disease, a travel history and a woman's sexual partner's potential exposure.

Access ACOG's [Zika Toolkit](#) online! The toolkit includes ACOG's Patient Education Zika virus [infographic](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) and [video](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)), and additional links for ob-gyns.

Visit ACOG's [Zika Virus webpage](#) for up-to-date information and resources.

Are your patients traveling to visit friends or family in areas with Zika?

Remind them to protect themselves and loved ones [from mosquito bites](#) and [sexual transmission of Zika](#). Refer them to [CDC's Zika Travel Information](#) page to learn what they need to know before, during and after their travel.