



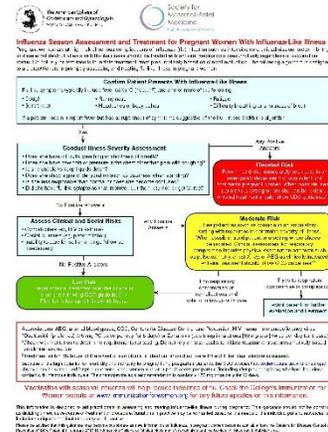
January Immunization Newsletter

Influenza activity in the United States is increasing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a [Health Advisory through its Health Alert Network \(HAN\): Seasonal Influenza A\(H3N2\) Activity and Antiviral Treatment of Patients with Influenza](#) on December 27, 2017.

Importantly:

1. Influenza should be high on the list of possible diagnoses for ill patients because influenza activity is increasing nationwide.
2. All pregnant and postpartum women (up to two weeks) with suspected influenza should be treated promptly with a neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral. While antiviral drugs work best when treatment is started within 2 days of illness onset, clinical benefit has been observed even when treatment is initiated later.
3. If influenza is suspected, clinicians should **not** wait for test results to begin treatment with antivirals.
Treatment should begin promptly.



See ACOG and SMFM’s [Influenza Season Assessment and Treatment for Pregnant Women with ILI Algorithm](#)

It’s not too late and is critical to vaccinate!

Many pregnant women have already been hospitalized with influenza-like illness this season. It is important to communicate with patients that even though the vaccine is not 100% effective, receiving an influenza vaccination can still mitigate the effects of influenza illness.

ACOG encourages providers to continue to strongly recommend influenza vaccination to all pregnant women in any trimester. In your conversation remind patients that:

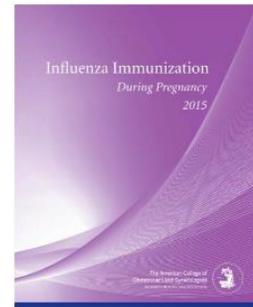
- Flu vaccination during pregnancy can prevent influenza infection in both moms and babies
- Even if you still get the flu, receiving a flu vaccine often lessens the severity of flu symptoms and chances of hospitalization and death
- Flu vaccination can be safely given at any time in pregnancy

See ACOG's Practice Advisory: [Influenza Vaccination During Pregnancy](#) for more information.

ACOG Influenza Vaccination during Pregnancy Toolkit

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

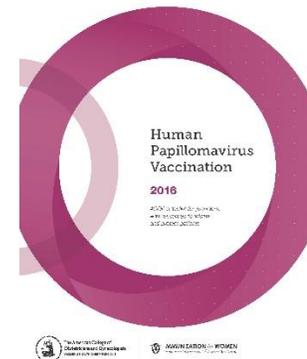
- [FAQ's for Patients Concerning Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccination During Pregnancy,](#)
- [FAQ's for Patients Concerning Vaccine Safety,](#)
- [FAQ's Concerning Seasonal Influenza for Ob-Gyn,](#)
- [Flu Vaccine Information Statement,](#) and
- ACOG's [Influenza Season Assessment and Treatment for Pregnant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



January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

ACOG has a multitude of resources on cervical cancer for providers and patients, include important information about HPV Vaccination. Check out ACOG's HPV Vaccination tool kit which includes:

- [ACOG's Committee Opinion: Human Papillomavirus Vaccination](#)
- [FAQs for Patients Concerning HPV Vaccination](#)
- [Physician Script on HPV Vaccination](#)
- [Infographic Poster: The HPV Vaccine is a Lifesaver](#)
- [Infographic Poster: Protect Yourself with the HPV Vaccine](#)
- [Infographic Poster: Protect Your Family with the HPV Vaccine](#)



Immunization Champion Spotlight: Jennie Yoost, MD Marshall University

Dr. Jennie Yoost, a pediatric and adolescent gynecologist at Marshall University, has worked with her team to improve Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates among adolescents and young adults. HPV vaccination has successfully been implemented in the office practice through the following steps.



1. Education of staff and the identification of patients needing the vaccine.
2. Nurses ask every adolescent in the target or catch up age group about HPV vaccination status.
3. Electronic records are used for clinician reminders and for access to immunization records from other providers.
4. All clinic rooms contain ACOG's "[The HPV Vaccine is a Lifesaver](#)" poster which facilitates discussion with parents and adolescents.
5. Clinic staff provide brochures such as ACOG's "[Frequently Asked Questions for Patients Concerning HPV Vaccination](#)" to patients and parents about HPV vaccination.

In addition, Dr. Yoost is a Vaccine for Children provider and able to provide vaccination at no cost to those patients without vaccination coverage.

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.