

Key notes on: **Influenza and pregnancy**

- Pregnancy is considered a 'high risk' category for influenza and vaccination is recommended for all pregnant women
- Influenza in pregnancy is associated with an increased likelihood for hospitalization, including maternal ICU admission
- Influenza in pregnancy is associated with an increased likelihood of preterm birth and perinatal death
- Influenza vaccination is safe for administration in all trimesters
- Influenza vaccination during pregnancy protects the woman and fetus during pregnancy and the baby in the first couple of months following birth
- The main reason women give for not receiving the influenza vaccination during pregnancy is that no health professional offered it

Key resources/recommended reading

The ANZIC Influenza Investigators* and the Australasian Maternity Outcomes Surveillance System: Seppelt I, Sullivan E, Bellomo R, Ellwood D, Finfer S, Howe B, Knight M, McArthur C, McDonnell N, McLintock C, Morgan T, Morrison S, Nguyen N, Peek M, Pollock W, Vaughan G, Webb S, Wang A. Critical Illness Due To Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 In Pregnant and Postpartum Women. *British Medical Journal* 2010; 340:c1279 (doi:10.1136/bmj.c1279).

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