Vaccination for women who are planning pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding

Planning pregnancy

Make sure women who are planning pregnancy are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

- Check immunisation history and give any missed vaccines.
  - If uncertain history of vaccination or disease, check serology for these diseases and vaccinate if needed:
    - hepatitis B
    - measles
    - varicella (if the person has not had an age-appropriate vaccine course)
    - rubella
  - Give seasonal influenza vaccine if available and if not already given this year.

Avoid pregnancy within 28 days of receiving a live vaccine.

During pregnancy

Recommended vaccinations during pregnancy protect both the mother and the baby.

- Give seasonal influenza vaccine at any time during influenza season, if not already received.
- Give pertussis-containing vaccine between mid 2nd trimester and early 3rd trimester (ideally 20–32 weeks).

Give extra vaccines, such as pneumococcal or meningococcal vaccines, to those medically at risk.

Give non-live vaccines only if needed and if the benefits outweigh the risks. Do not give live vaccines. If inadvertently given, seek expert advice.

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding women can safely receive most vaccines.

- Give seasonal influenza vaccine if not already given this year.
- Give other vaccines as needed.

Give yellow fever vaccine only if needed, and if the benefits outweigh the risks.

See the Australian Immunisation Handbook for more details.