



## BEST PRACTICES IN COMMUNICATING ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE WITH WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE

### 1. INITIATE

- Identify opportunities and strategies to respectfully introduce the subject
- Establish an environment of trust and openness

### 2. UNDERSTAND

- Encourage patient to share their thinking with open-ended questions
- Use silence to demonstrate listening and encourage elaboration
- Use prompting cues and questions to encourage elaboration
- Validate the fact that the patient has questions
- Invite patient to lead the discussion
- Paraphrase & summarize concerns/objections once they've been shared
- Show appreciation – thank the patient for sharing

### 3. ENGAGE

Practice strategies to productively engage patients in learning about COVID-19 vaccination:

- Frame patient concerns about the vaccine as a positive opportunity for cooperative problem solving
- Respond nonjudgmentally to misinformation or inaccurate beliefs about the vaccine by refocusing on the patient's underlying concerns
- Provide accurate information about the benefits of the vaccine
- Rephrase/summarize concerns
- Focus on patient's underlying concerns, rather than debunking all misinformation
- Emphasize expert, professional obligation & personal credibility
- Emphasize shared goals and primary concern for patient
- Make a clear, overt recommendation
- Keep the door open for future discussions and opportunities

### 4. SUPPORT

Establish a clear behavioral directive to support vaccination:

- Emphasize professional expertise and responsibility to advocate vaccination in the best interests of the patient
- Communicate sustained care and concern for the patient's wellbeing
- Provide informational and other practical resources to assist the patient in following through with vaccination intentions
- Validate patient concerns
- Demonstrate empathy to challenges, *but* emphasize that they are not insurmountable
- Provide clear commitment and cue to action



## KEY FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES AND PREGNANCY/FERTILITY

Organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and The American Society for Reproductive Medicine recommend COVID-19 vaccination for people who are pregnant, recently pregnant, or trying to conceive.

### Risks of COVID-19

- People who are pregnant or recently pregnant are at increased risk of severe complications<sup>1</sup>
- COVID-19 infection during pregnancy increases the risk of preterm or stillborn birth<sup>2</sup>

### Safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine

- Numerous studies support the safety of the vaccine for people who are pregnant<sup>3</sup>
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination increases risk of miscarriage<sup>4</sup>

### Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccination

- Growing evidence suggests that COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy can protect infants from COVID-19 infection.<sup>5</sup> In a 2022 report, 84% of infants who were hospitalized for COVID-19 were born to unvaccinated people.<sup>6</sup>
- Research suggests that protective antibodies produced by receiving the COVID-19 vaccine may be passed to an infant through breastfeeding<sup>7</sup>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[CoVAXCEN COVID-19 Vaccine Information & Resources](#)

[Greater than COVID Video FAQs about Covid Vaccines, Pregnancy and Fertility](#)

[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)

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## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> “Understand How COVID-19 Might Affect Your Pregnancy,” Mayo Clinic, accessed June 6, 2022, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/pregnancy-and-covid-19/art-20482639>.

<sup>2</sup> Meredith Wadman, “COVID-19 Starkly Increases Pregnancy Complications, Including Stillbirths, among the Unvaccinated, Scottish Study Shows,” *Science*, January 14, 2022, <http://www.science.org/content/article/covid-19-starkly-increases-pregnancy-complications-including-stillbirths-among>.

<sup>3</sup> Shannon Hall, “COVID Vaccines Safely Protect Pregnant People: The Data Are In,” *Nature* 601, no. 7893 (January 12, 2022): 308–9, <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-00031-8>.

<sup>4</sup> Mary Van Beusekom | News Writer | CIDRAP News | Sep 09 and 2021, “COVID-19 Vaccines Don’t Raise Miscarriage Risk, 3 Studies Show,” CIDRAP, accessed June 6, 2022, <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/09/covid-19-vaccines-dont-raise-miscarriage-risk-3-studies-show>.

<sup>5</sup> Ellen Øen Carlsen et al., “Association of COVID-19 Vaccination During Pregnancy With Incidence of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Infants,” *JAMA Internal Medicine*, June 1, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2022.2442>.

<sup>6</sup> Natasha B. Halasa, “Effectiveness of Maternal Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy Against COVID-19–Associated Hospitalization in Infants Aged 6 Months — 17 States, July 2021–January 2022,” *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 71 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7107e3>.

<sup>7</sup> Shannon Hall, “COVID Vaccines and Breastfeeding: What the Data Say,” *Nature* 594, no. 7864 (June 23, 2021): 492–94, <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-01680-x>.



## VACCINE RIGHTS

If you are asked for documentation at a vaccine location, you can share the following.  
Si se le pide documentación en un punto de vacunación, puede compartir lo siguiente.

### **I am here to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.**

**All eligible individuals can receive the COVID-19 vaccine regardless of immigration or insurance status. Individuals are *not* required to present a social security number or state ID in order to get the vaccine.**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services specifies the following:

- COVID-19 vaccine providers may not ask individuals to provide documentation regarding immigration status.
- COVID-19 vaccination providers cannot charge vaccine recipients for the vaccine (which is provided free to enrolled providers by the U.S. government) or for any administration fees, copays, or coinsurance.
- COVID-19 vaccination providers cannot deny vaccination to anyone who does not have health coverage, is underinsured, or is out of network.
- If seeking reimbursement from the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, providers are required to request certain information from the patient, including a Social Security Number and, if unavailable, a driver's license/state ID number, solely to check if the patient has other health insurance
  - Patients are not required to provide this information
  - Providers will still be reimbursed for eligible claims if they attest that they asked for this information, but it was not made available.

*Violations of these requirements are reportable to the Office of the Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
1-800-HHS-TIPS | TIPS.HHS.GOV*

### **Estoy aquí para recibir una vacuna contra la COVID-19.**

**Todas las personas elegibles pueden recibir la vacuna contra la COVID-19 sin importar el estatus de migración o seguro. Las personas no están obligadas a presentar un número de seguridad social o identificación del estado para recibir la vacuna.**

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE. UU. especifica lo siguiente:

- Los proveedores de la vacuna contra la COVID-19 no pueden pedir a las personas que proporcionen documentación sobre el estatus de inmigración.
- Los proveedores de la vacuna contra la COVID-19 no pueden cobrar a los vacunados por la vacuna (la cual el gobierno de los EE. UU. proporciona de forma gratuita a los proveedores inscritos) o por cualquier tarifa de administración, copago o coaseguro.
- Los proveedores de la vacuna contra la COVID-19 no pueden negar la vacunación a toda persona que no tenga cobertura médica, que tenga seguro insuficiente o está fuera de la red.
- Si busca obtener un reembolso del Programa COVID-19 para No Asegurados del HRSA, los proveedores están obligados a solicitar cierta información del paciente, incluyendo un Número de Seguridad Social y, si no se dispone de él, un número de licencia de conducir/identificación del estado, únicamente para verificar si el paciente cuenta con algún otro seguro médico.
  - Los pacientes no están obligados a proporcionar esta información
  - Los proveedores aún recibirán un reembolso por reclamaciones elegible si demuestran que pidieron esta información, pero no estaba a disposición.

*El incumplimiento de estos requisitos debe notificarse a la Oficina del Inspector General  
del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE. UU.  
1-800-HHS-TIPS | TIPS.HHS.GOV*