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## PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

### Increasing COVID-19 Vaccination Among Pregnant Women

#### Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals

- For healthcare providers who see patients who are pregnant, recently pregnant or who are trying to get pregnant now:
  - Review patients' COVID-19 vaccination status at each pre- and post-natal visit and discuss COVID-19 vaccination with those who are unvaccinated.
  - Reach out to your patients with messages encouraging and recommending the critical need for vaccination. Consider sharing that the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recommends that all pregnant women get vaccinated against COVID-19.
  - Remind patients that vaccination is recommended even for those with prior COVID-19 infections. Studies have shown that vaccination provides increased protection in people who have recovered from COVID-19.
  - Support efforts to ensure people receiving the first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) return for their second dose to complete the series.
  - Communicate accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines and confront misinformation with evidence-based messaging from credible sources. For example, there is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in women or men. Also, prenatal maternal COVID-19 vaccines have no known adverse effects on pregnancy



course and outcomes. These findings may help pregnant women and health care providers to make informed decision regarding vaccination.

- Ensure all clinical staff are aware of the recommendation for vaccination of people before and during pregnancy and the serious risks of COVID-19 to pregnant and recently pregnant people and their fetuses/infants.
- Increase outreach efforts to encourage, recommend, and offer vaccination. A strong recommendation from a healthcare provider is a critical factor in COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.

## Background

- The CDC recently issued an [urgent health advisory](#) to increase COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant or lactating women to prevent serious illness, deaths, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.
- According to CDC data, only 31 percent of pregnant people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and vaccination rates vary markedly by race and ethnicity
- We are seeing similarly low rates of COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant women in Contra Costa County
- The CDC strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination either before or during pregnancy because the benefits of vaccination for both pregnant persons and their fetus or infant outweigh known or potential risks.
- Cases of COVID-19 in symptomatic, pregnant people have a two-fold risk of admission into intensive care and a 70 percent increased risk of death.
- Pregnant people with COVID-19 are at increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes that could include preterm birth, stillbirth, and admission into the ICU of a newborn also infected with COVID-19.

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