

**TO:** EZIZ Users  
**FROM:** CDPH  
**SUBJECT:** Immunize pregnant women to protect them and their babies  
**DATE:** 11/14/17

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Dear EZIZ users,

**“Flu can cause serious problems for you AND your baby. The flu vaccine is safe and passes protection to your baby in the womb. Let’s get that shot taken care of today to keep you both healthy.”**

Making a strong recommendation like this with your pregnant patients increases the likelihood for vaccination.<sup>[1]</sup> Pregnant women are vulnerable to severe flu illness, which can result in serious complications such as premature birth, stillbirth, and maternal death.<sup>[2]</sup> The best protection is flu vaccination, [recommended](#) during any trimester for pregnant women to protect themselves and their newborn babies from flu.

If you are pediatrician, encourage pregnant moms to get vaccinated by saying, “I see that you’re pregnant - don’t forget to get immunized by your prenatal care provider!”

Reinforce your recommendation with these resources:

- ACOG’s [Influenza Immunization during Pregnancy Toolkit](#), containing FAQs for prenatal patients and FAQs for prenatal care providers, as well as an algorithm for [Assessment and Treatment for Pregnant Women with Influenza-Like Illness](#).
- CDC’s handout on [Making a Strong Flu Vaccine Recommendation](#)
- CDPH’s [Flu and Whooping Cough poster for Pregnant Women](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#)  
Order copies from your local health dept. ([bit.do/immunization](http://bit.do/immunization))
- A 2017-18 flu season [letter](#) to prenatal care providers with talking points from CDC, ACOG, and other partnering organizations.

Visit the California Department of Public Health [Influenza page](#) for surveillance data and other flu season resources.

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[1] Ding, et al. [MMWR 2017](#)

[1] Rasmussen SA, Jamieson DJ, Uyeki TM. [Effects of influenza on pregnant women and infants](#). Am J Obstet Gynecol 2012;207(3 Suppl):S3–8.