

Vaccinations in Pregnancy

Fact Sheet

Vaccination against pertussis (whooping cough) and influenza is strongly recommended during pregnancy to protect expectant mothers and their babies against these serious infections. The following information has been taken from the NCIRS pregnancy information factsheet.



Pertussis vaccine

Recommended from 20wks

Pertussis is a highly contagious infection which is most severe in young babies. In Australia, pertussis is most common in babies younger than 6 months and, about 9 in 10 young babies who get pertussis will require hospitalisation. Those less than 3 months old are most at risk of severe disease, and 1 in 200 who get pertussis will die.

A single dose of pertussis vaccine is strongly recommended and free for pregnant women in the third trimester of every pregnancy (preferably between 20 and 32 weeks). Vaccination during pregnancy has been shown to be the most effective way to prevent pertussis infection in newborn babies.

The pertussis vaccine is an inactivated vaccine which is considered safe for both pregnant women and their babies. Vaccination of pregnant women against pertussis occurs in many countries including the United States, England and New Zealand. These countries have reported no evidence of an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes related to pertussis vaccination during pregnancy.

Although vaccination during pregnancy is the best way to protect a baby from pertussis, a booster dose of the vaccine is still recommended for all others in close contact. This is called 'cocooning' and will further reduce the chance of pertussis being transmitted to the baby. About 80% of babies get pertussis from their parents or siblings.

It is imperative to ensure all family, friends and children are up-to-date with their vaccinations prior to the birth of the baby to help protect your newborn.

Influenza vaccine

Recommended at any stage of Pregnancy

Influenza is a contagious respiratory viral infection that circulates each year, predominantly in the winter months. Pregnant women are 5 times more likely to be admitted to ICU with influenza. Influenza infection while pregnant can lead to other complications such as premature delivery and even neonatal and perinatal death.

Young children, especially those less than 6mths of age, are more likely to be hospitalised or die from influenza than older children.

Influenza vaccine is recommended with every pregnancy. It is strongly recommended that pregnant women receive a single dose of the influenza vaccine each year. In 2016, quadrivalent influenza vaccines are provided free for pregnant women and will protect both the expectant mother and her unborn child from influenza complications.

A Canadian study showed that babies born to women vaccinated against influenza while pregnant were less likely to be born prematurely or have a low birth weight. Influenza vaccination during pregnancy also prevents influenza hospitalisations in 9 out of 10 babies before they reach 6 months of age – the age when they can start to receive the vaccine themselves. This is due to the transfer of protective antibodies from the pregnant woman to the baby which remains in the newborn's blood for the first few months of life.

All influenza vaccines in Australia are inactivated vaccines, which are considered safe for both pregnant women and their babies. Studies of mother-baby pairs have shown that receiving the vaccine while pregnant does not increase maternal or fetal complications during pregnancy.

Clinic locations

Please present to any of the clinic locations below to receive your vaccination.

FLAGSTONE STATE SCHOOL

Community Building
Coachwood Drive, Flagstone
Every Monday 9am to 10am
(Flagstone Clinic closed during school holidays)

GREENBANK STATE SCHOOL

Gate 8, Old School Building
24 36 Goodna Road, Greenbank
Every Monday 11am to 11.45am
(Flagstone Clinic closed during school holidays)

YARRABILBA FAMILY & COMMUNITY PLACE

3 Darrell Street, Yarrabilba
Every Wednesday 9am to 10am

PCYC CRESTMEAD

Community Centre
Gimlet Street, Crestmead
Every Wednesday 11am to 11.30am

BEENLEIGH LIBRARY

Crete Street, Beenleigh
Every Thursday 9am to 10am

JIMBOOMBA LIBRARY

18 22 Honora Street, Jimboomba
Every Thursday 11am to noon

BROWNS PLAINS

EARLY YEARS CENTRE
Cnr Wineglass Drive & Middle Road, Hillcrest
Every Thursday noon to 1pm

LOGAN CENTRAL LIBRARY

26 Wilbur Street, Logan Central
Every Thursday 3.30pm to 7pm

SPRINGWOOD CHILD HEALTH CENTRE

16 Cinderella Drive, Springwood
Every Friday 9am to 10am

MARSDEN LIBRARY

35 Chambers Flat Road, Marsden
Every Friday 11am to noon

LOGAN HYPERDOME LIBRARY

66 Mandew Street, Shailer Park
Every Saturday 9am to 11am

Additional clinic information

Council provides an on site vaccination clinic at the Logan Hospital every Thursday (excluding public holidays from 9am to 11am in the Antenatal Clinic. No appointment is needed to access the vaccination services.

Every year, during the Influenza season, dedicated clinics will run in the Antenatal Clinic at Logan Hospital. For further information on the dates and times, please visit Council's website logan.qld.gov.au/immunisation.