



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR, MAGA'HAGA'

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR, SIGUNDO MAGA'LÁHI

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR
DIRECTOR

LAURENT SF DUENAS, MPH, BSN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY G. AGUON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OCTOBER 5, 2021

PHYSICIANS ADVISORY: 2022-01

COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR PREGNANT PEOPLE TO PREVENT SERIOUS ILLNESS, DEATHS, AND ADVERSE PREGNANCY OUTCOMES FROM COVID-19

Dear Physician/Provider,

Thank you for the important role you play in the vaccination of our community. Here is a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for vaccination of pregnant women.

Background

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for pregnant people. CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all people aged 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to get pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future.⁴ CDC recommendations align with those from professional medical organizations serving people who are pregnant, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Accumulating data provide evidence of both the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy. CDC strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination either before or during pregnancy, because the benefits of vaccination for both pregnant persons and their fetus/infant outweigh known or potential risks. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can prevent severe illness, death, and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

- 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 to people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to get pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future. A strong recommendation from a healthcare provider is a critical factor in COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and can make a meaningful difference to protect the health of pregnant and recently pregnant people and their fetuses/infants from COVID-19.

- For healthcare providers who see patients who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to get pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future:
 - 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.
 - 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 as close as possible to the recommended interval.
 - Consider a booster dose in eligible pregnant persons.⁴
 - 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.

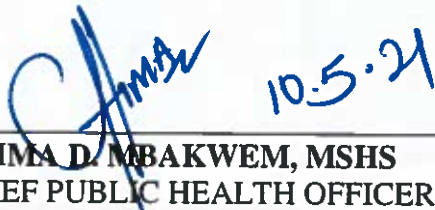
If you have any questions, please contact Robert Leon Guerrero, MD, Interim Chief Medical Officer, at 1-671-922-2562 or email at robert.leonguerrero@dphss.guam.gov.

APPROVED BY:



ROBERT LEON GUERRERO, MD
INTERIM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

CONCURRED BY:



CHIMA D. MBAKWEM, MSHS
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER