

Obstetrician groups recommend COVID vaccine during pregnancy

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In this May 7, 2020 file photo, a pregnant woman waits in a food pantry line at St. Mary's Church in Waltham, Mass., for people in need of groceries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two obstetricians' groups—The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, are now recommending COVID-19 shots for all pregnant women, citing concerns over rising cases and low vaccination rates. Credit: AP Photo/Charles Krupa, File

Two leading obstetricians' groups on Friday recommended COVID-19 shots for all pregnant women, citing concerns over rising cases and low vaccination rates.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine said vaccinations in tens of thousands of pregnant [women](#) over the past several months have shown the shots are safe and effective during pregnancy.

COVID-19 during pregnancy increases risks for severe complications and can also increase chances for preterm birth. U.S. government data show only about 16% of [pregnant women](#) have received one or more doses of the COVID-19 [vaccine](#).

The two groups had previously said pregnant people shouldn't be excluded from vaccination but stopped short of endorsing the shots.

The president of the OB-GYN group, Dr. Martin Tucker, said in a statement that doctors should enthusiastically recommend the shots to their patients.

Dr. Emily Miller, obstetrics chief at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago, said she hopes the new recommendation "will help pregnant people feel more confident in their decision to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible."

Miller is a member of the maternal-fetal medicine group's COVID-19 task force.



In this Wednesday, June 9, 2021 file photo, A nurse gives a shot of the Pfizer vaccine for COVID-19 to a pregnant woman in Montevideo, Uruguay. Two obstetricians' groups are now recommending COVID-19 shots for all pregnant women, citing concerns over rising cases and low vaccination rates. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine said vaccinations in tens of thousands of pregnant women have shown the shots are safe and effective. Credit: AP Photo/Matilde Campodonico, File

Pregnant women weren't included in studies that led to emergency authorization of the vaccines. Experts including the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have not discouraged vaccination during pregnancy and have said available safety information is reassuring.

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