

Pregnant Women

1

About how long can symptoms from a pertussis infection last?

- A. 2 weeks
- B. 1 month
- C. 2 months
- D. 3 to 4 months

2

Pregnant women are ____ times more likely to suffer complications from an infection with influenza than women of the same age who are not pregnant.

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 7
- D. 10

3

Which two organs are particularly stressed during pregnancy?

- A. Liver and kidneys
- B. Heart and brain
- C. Lungs and kidneys
- D. Heart and lungs

4

What is the source of antibodies found in newborn babies?

- A. Maternal antibodies that crossed the placenta before birth
- B. Maternal antibodies delivered in breast milk
- C. Neither
- D. Both

5

What Academy Award-nominated actress had a daughter with birth defects caused by congenital rubella syndrome (CRS)?

- A. Meryl Streep
- B. Gene Tierney
- C. Susan Sarandon
- D. Gwyneth Paltrow

6

Which vaccines should pregnant women avoid?

- A. Killed viral
- B. Conjugate
- C. Live, "weakened" viral
- D. Recombinant

7

Why are pregnant women suggested to get influenza vaccine?

- A. To protect the baby
- B. To protect themselves
- C. Neither
- D. Both

8

When are pregnant women recommended to receive Tdap vaccine?

- A. Any time during each pregnancy
- B. After 12 weeks of gestation during each pregnancy
- C. Between 27 and 36 weeks of gestation during each pregnancy
- D. Any time during first pregnancy

9

Which type of vaccines should those who live in the home of a pregnant woman avoid?

- A. Live, "weakened" viral vaccines
- B. Recombinant vaccines
- C. Killed viral vaccines
- D. None of the above

10

Why are young infants particularly susceptible to complications from pertussis?

- A. Heart rate increases dangerously from pertussis
- B. Lack of sleep from coughing spells makes them weak
- C. Narrow windpipe makes breathing difficult during coughing spells
- D. All of the above

Pregnant Women ANSWERS

1

The correct answer is **D**

Symptoms from pertussis occur in three stages that can last 3 to 4 months in total. For this reason, pertussis is sometimes called the “100-day cough.”

2

The correct answer is **C**

Physical changes that occur during pregnancy make pregnant women seven times more likely to suffer complications from an infection with influenza. They are at increased risk for some other infections as well.

3

The correct answer is **D**

A pregnant woman’s heart and lungs must work harder during pregnancy because of the extra volume of fluids in her body.

4

The correct answer is **D**

Maternal antibodies are transferred via the placenta and breast milk. These antibodies help keep the baby healthy while the baby’s own immune system begins generating immune responses to the natural challenges in the environment.

5

The correct answer is **B**

While pregnant, Gene Tierney got rubella after an infected fan hugged her. Tierney’s infection passed to the baby, causing congenital rubella syndrome (CRS). The baby was born prematurely and lived with cataracts, intellectual disability and deafness.

6

The correct answer is **C**

Although vaccines given during pregnancy have not been found to cause harm to unborn babies, theoretical concerns related to live “weakened” viral vaccines have led officials to recommend against giving them during pregnancy unless the risk of infection is imminent. Thus, live, “weakened” vaccines, like MMR and chickenpox, should be avoided if possible.

7

The correct answer is **D**

The influenza vaccine provides protection to both mom and baby. Because of physical changes to the body during pregnancy, a pregnant woman is at greater risk of being hospitalized with complications from influenza. Because the baby can get influenza and cannot benefit from vaccination until 6 months of age, the best way to protect the newborn is through maternal antibodies.

8

The correct answer is **C**

Pregnant women are recommended to get Tdap vaccine to protect their unborn babies from pertussis in the weeks and months after birth before they are immunized. While anytime during the 27- to 36-week window is acceptable for getting the vaccine, public health officials suggest aiming for receipt earlier during the window than later.

9

The correct answer is **D**

Other people living with a pregnant woman can receive any vaccines they require.

10

The correct answer is **C**

The narrow windpipe in a young infant makes breathing during coughing spells difficult and often results in a “whooping” sound as the infant attempts to breathe.

