



October 2021

# FLASH REPORT

A Brief Report of Public Health Activity Within Jackson County

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## COVID-19 Vaccination for People with Prior or Current SARS-CoV-2 Infection

People should be offered vaccination regardless of their history of symptomatic or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection; this includes people with prolonged post-COVID-19 symptoms. Data from clinical trials indicate that the currently approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines can be given safely to people with evidence of a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.<sup>1</sup> Viral testing to assess for acute SARS-CoV-2 infection or serologic testing to assess for prior infection is not recommended for the purposes of vaccine decision-making.<sup>1</sup>

Vaccination of people with known current SARS-CoV-2 infection should be deferred until the person has recovered from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and they have met the [criteria](#) to discontinue isolation.<sup>1</sup> This recommendation applies to people who experience SARS-CoV-2 infection before receiving any vaccine dose and those who experience SARS-CoV-2 infection after the first dose of an mRNA vaccine but before receipt of subsequent doses.<sup>1</sup>

While there is no recommended minimum interval between infection and vaccination, [current evidence](#) suggests that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection is low in the period after initial infection, but may increase with time due to waning immunity.<sup>1</sup> A primary vaccination series decreases the risk of future infections in people with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.<sup>1</sup>

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## COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Deaths, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends urgent action to increase Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination among people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to become pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future. CDC strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination either before or during pregnancy because the benefits of vaccination outweigh known or potential risks.

As of September 27, 2021, more than 125,000 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases have been reported in pregnant people, including more than 22,000 hospitalized cases and 161 deaths.<sup>2</sup> The highest number of COVID-19-related deaths in pregnant people (n=22) in a single month of the pandemic was reported in August 2021. Data from the

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COVID-19-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET) in 2021 indicate that approximately 97% of pregnant people hospitalized (either for illness or for labor and delivery) with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection were unvaccinated.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to the risks of severe illness and death for pregnant and recently pregnant people, there is an increased risk for adverse pregnancy and neonatal outcomes, including preterm birth and admission of their neonate(s) to an intensive care unit (ICU). Other adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as stillbirth, have been reported. Despite the known risks of COVID-19, as of September 18, 2021, 31.0% of pregnant people were fully vaccinated before or during their pregnancy.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, there are racial and ethnic disparities in vaccination coverage for pregnant people. Healthcare providers should communicate the risks of COVID-19, the benefits of vaccination, and information on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy.

Healthcare providers should strongly recommend that people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to become pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future receive one of the authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible.

#### 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.
  - 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.



<http://jacksoncounty.org/hhs/Public-Health>

## 2021-2022 Flu Season

Influenza viruses typically circulate annually in the United States, most commonly from the late fall through the early spring. Most persons who become ill after influenza virus infection recover without serious complications or sequelae. However, influenza can be associated with serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths, particularly among older adults, very young children, pregnant women, and persons of all ages with certain chronic medical conditions.<sup>5</sup> Influenza also is an important cause of missed work and school.<sup>5</sup> Routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged  $\geq 6$  months who do not have contraindications has been recommended by CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) since 2010.<sup>5</sup>

The 2021–22 influenza season is expected to coincide with the continued circulation of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.<sup>5</sup> Influenza vaccination of persons aged  $\geq 6$  months to reduce the prevalence of illness caused by influenza will reduce symptoms that might be confused with those of COVID-19.<sup>5</sup> Prevention of and reduction in the severity of influenza illness and reduction of outpatient visits, hospitalizations, and intensive care unit admissions through influenza vaccination also could alleviate stress on the U.S. health care system.

### Highlights on what is new for the 2021-2022 flu vaccine

- The composition of the flu vaccines has been updated:
  - Egg-based vaccine composition recommendations:
    - an A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
    - an A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like virus;
    - a B/Washington/02/2019- like virus (B/Victoria lineage);
    - a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage)
  - Cell- or recombinant-based vaccine composition recommendations:
    - an A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
    - an A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like virus;
    - a B/Washington/02/2019- like virus (B/Victoria lineage);
    - a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage).
- All flu vaccines will be quadrivalent, designed to protect against four different flu viruses.
- Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time.

### Resources

- CDC [Information for Health Professional](#)
- CDC [Frequently Asked Influenza \(Flu\) Questions 2021-2022 Season](#)

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*“The mission of Jackson County Health and Human Services is to plan, coordinate and provide public services that protect and promote the health and well-being of county residents.*”

### References

1. Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States. CDC.gov. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#CoV-19-vaccination>. Reviewed September 27, 2021. Accessed October 4, 2021.
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