HOW PREGNANT WOMEN CAN PASS

PROTECTION ONTO THEIR BABIES

BEFORE THEY ARE BORN.

Maternal Immunization is a powerful tool to help pregnant women pass on antibodies to the fetus through vaccination, helping to protect the infant from infections in the first few months of life.

Talk to your OB-GYN or other healthcare providers to learn more about how to help protect your baby.



IgG= Immunoglobulin G FcRn= Neonatal Fc receptor

A pregnant individual receives a disease-specific vaccine.

> The immune system of the pregnant individual develops or augments existing levels of antibodies in response to the vaccine.

These antibodies are known as immunoglobulin G, or IgG, and are the only antibody class that can pass through the placenta at significant levels.

IgG travels through the maternal bloodstream to the placenta.

Factors affecting mother-to-fetus antibody transfer:

1. Antibody concentration of the mother

2. Previous diseases, such as diabetes or HIV, which may lead to impaired placental function

3. The fetus' age at the time of the maternal vaccination

A helper molecule, the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn), binds to IgG and transfers it across the placenta into the fetal blood.

The fetus receives IgG, which circulates in the child's bloodstream during the first months of life and can protect him or her from infection.

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Often, the fetus even has an even higher concentration of protective antibodies than the mother.

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IgG concentrations last for about six months in the newborn, providing protection at a time when he or she is most vulnerable.











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