

Vaccinations for pregnant women: invitations, reminders and escalation of contact



Pregnant women includes any women who are pregnant as well as transgender or non-binary people who are pregnant. This terminology is used to maintain consistency with NHS documents and websites.

Invitations

Practitioners working in maternity services and other healthcare practitioners who have contact with pregnant women should ensure that pregnant women are invited for vaccination or signposted to vaccination services or drop-in clinics.

Reminders

- At the first appointment after the 20-week scan, check whether the pregnant woman has been offered and accepted vaccination against pertussis in this pregnancy.
- If not, ensure they receive offers of vaccination or reminders (as relevant) at subsequent antenatal appointments or during any contact with their GP, midwife, health visitor or any other healthcare provider.

Escalation

For pregnant women who do not respond to reminders, consider more direct contact such as a phone call. Explore with them the reasons for their lack of response and try to address any issues they raise.

If the pregnant woman declines an offer of vaccination, record this with the reason why, if given, and make sure she knows how to get a vaccination at a later date if she changes her mind.

Consider a multidisciplinary approach to address any issues raised, involving other relevant health and social care practitioners such as health visitors, social workers or key workers, while respecting the person's decision if they refuse vaccination.

Consider home visits for pregnant women who have difficulty travelling to vaccination services. Discuss immunisation and offer them vaccinations there and then (or arrange a convenient time in the future).

Accessible information and supported decision making

- Try to provide the information, invitation and any subsequent reminders in a format and language appropriate for the person and their family members or carers (as appropriate).
- Ensure that the information, invitation and any subsequent reminders meet the person's communication needs (see [NHS England's Accessible Information Standard](#)). For more guidance on providing information to people and discussing their preferences with them, see [NICE's guidelines on patient experience in adult NHS services](#) and [shared decision making](#).
- If people need to provide consent for vaccination but need additional support with decision making (such as people with learning disabilities) or if they may lack mental capacity, follow the [recommendations on supporting decision making in the NICE guideline on decision making and mental capacity](#).