



Alabama Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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The rise in COVID-19 cases has resulted in an increased number of pregnant women seeking hospital services in Alabama. Compared to last year, more pregnant individuals have been admitted to intensive care units, resulting in increased use of services including mechanical ventilation and heart/lung bypass. Unfortunately, more women and their unborn babies in our state have died as result of complications of COVID-19 infections. Pregnancy itself is a risk factor for severe complications and death from COVID-19.

Multiple professional societies and medical experts including American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist, Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine and CDC recommend vaccination as the single most effective tool to prevent serious illness from COVID-19. We urge those caring for pregnant and lactating women to counsel their patients on the benefits of vaccination. The literature supports the safety of vaccination in individuals, before, during, and after pregnancy.

In addition to recommending the COVID vaccine for all pregnant women, pregnancy or lactation should not preclude otherwise known therapies for the treatment of COVID-19 including monoclonal antibodies, remdesivir and dexamethasone for eligible cases. It is imperative that such therapies be considered immediately upon confirmation of COVID-19 in the appropriate patients. Unfortunately, even with timely and appropriate therapy, women and their unborn child may still die from COVID. Therefore, we urge prevention through vaccination as the single most effective way to keep mothers and their babies safe from COVID.

Working together, we can help reduce the deadly effects of COVID-19 on Alabama mothers and their unborn babies.