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Vaccine Integrity Project Launches Independent Review of Tdap Vaccine in Pregnancy
In conjunction with recently announced respiratory virus vaccines review, Vaccine Integrity Project will evaluate vaccines routinely administered during pregnancy

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The Vaccine Integrity Project, based at the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), today announced the launch of an independent, comprehensive review of the safety and effectiveness of the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine in pregnancy. In conjunction with its recently announced review of influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunizations, the Vaccine Integrity Project will evaluate the evidence related to maternal health outcomes associated with the routine vaccinations administered during pregnancy.

For Tdap, the review will assess possible safety outcomes such as miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm birth, pregnancy-related high blood pressure disorders, congenital anomalies, such as spina bifida, and newborn developmental outcomes, as well as reported data on effectiveness in preventing tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) in pregnant adults and newborns.

The most recent ACIP publication reviewing Tdap vaccine evidence was the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report "Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccines," published in January 2020, which summarizes available evidence (including safety outcomes) and policy for Tdap use. This report reflects evidence considered through late 2019. The recommendation to give Tdap during every pregnancy was last formally reviewed and voted on by ACIP in October 2012 and published in 2013.

The Tdap review is being conducted by the Evidence Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on improving health outcomes through evidence-based research, in collaboration with CIDRAP. The assessment will follow established standards for systematic evidence review, including a pre-specified protocol, structured evaluation of bias, and transparent reporting of findings. The protocol will be publicly registered to foster methodological transparency.

The Project anticipates releasing Tdap findings this spring. The final report and accompanying materials will be made publicly available to support clinicians and medical professional societies in their work making vaccine recommendations, and to provide expectant parents peace of mind in making informed vaccination decisions.

"Vaccination during pregnancy protects both mothers and infants, including newborns who are too young to be vaccinated themselves," said CIDRAP Director Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH. "At a time when vaccine policy is under strain and vaccine myths are widespread, it is essential that

recommendations be grounded in a transparent, comprehensive review of the full body of peer-reviewed evidence."

Vaccines recommended during pregnancy have long been supported by major medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, because of their demonstrated ability to reduce severe disease in pregnant individuals and young infants.

However, recent public debate and policy uncertainty have underscored the need for an independent, up-to-date evaluation of the evidence base. Without adequate evidence to support the claims, the safety of vaccines administered during pregnancy have been questioned by members of CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

For the recently announced evaluation of influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines, the Project will update its 2025 evidence review, The updated analysis will be completed before the start of the 2026-27 respiratory virus season and will incorporate newly published data to ensure that clinicians, medical societies, and the public have access to the most current evidence regarding vaccination during pregnancy.

The pregnancy-related vaccine reviews build on the Vaccine Integrity Project's prior independent assessments of the hepatitis B birth dose and respiratory virus immunizations. The Project is also currently reviewing the safety and effectiveness of the HPV vaccine. Together, these efforts aim to ensure that immunization policy discussions remain anchored in rigorous scientific analysis and transparent evaluation of risks and benefits.

Established in April 2025, the Vaccine Integrity Project provides independent, science-based reviews of vaccine safety and effectiveness to support informed decision-making and public trust in immunization policy.

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