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Public Health England updates pertussis vaccine advice for pregnant women

Pertussis vaccine for pregnant women now recommended earlier

On 6 April 2016, a revised chapter on whooping cough immunisation, part of 'Immunisation against infectious disease' (the Green Book) was published. This includes the recommendation that pregnant women should now be offered a single dose of a pertussis containing vaccine (dTaP/IPV) between gestational weeks 16 and 32 rather than from week 28 [1, 2].

Women may still be immunised after week 32 of pregnancy, but this may not offer as high a level of passive protection to the baby [1].

Offering maternal immunisation earlier than 28 weeks should improve infant protection and provide more opportunity for pregnant women to be offered the pertussis vaccine during pregnancy [2].

Resources

- [Public Health England. Pertussis: guidance, data and analysis](#)

References

1. [Public Health England. Green Book. Chapter 24 Pertussis. 6 April 2016. \[Accessed 7 April 2016\].](#)
2. [Public Health England. Vaccine Update Issue 242. March 2016. \[Accessed 7 April 2016\]](#)