



**Division of Public Health Services**

Office of the Assistant Director  
Public Health Preparedness Services

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JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR  
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September 17, 2008

Dear Obstetrical Health Care Provider:

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) data on influenza vaccination of pregnant women in Arizona indicate that this population is inadequately vaccinated. Many obstetrical clinics do not provide influenza and other recommended vaccinations to their patients. This creates a challenge for pregnant women to get the vaccinations they need since primary care offices and mass vaccination clinics are often hesitant to vaccinate during pregnancy without an obstetrician's recommendation.

To help you, ADHS has posted a template letter that you can use to refer your patients to primary care providers or vaccination clinics for needed vaccines. The letter explains that you have determined that it is appropriate for your patient to be vaccinated. The letter can be accessed on our website at [www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/resource.htm](http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/resource.htm). It is a Word document so it can be modified to include your letterhead.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) supports (ACOG Committee Opinion, No. 282, January 2003) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations for vaccination of pregnant women (General Recommendations on Immunization MMWR December 1, 2008). No evidence exists of risk from vaccinating pregnant women with inactivated virus or bacterial vaccines or toxoids. Please note that the CDC recommends routine inactivated influenza vaccination for all women who will be pregnant, in any trimester, during influenza season.

Locations of clinics that provide influenza vaccine and other vaccines can be obtained through Community Information & Referral site at: [www.cir.org](http://www.cir.org), (602) 263-8856, or (800) 352-3792 (for northern and southern Arizona). If you have any questions, or need any further information or resources, please contact the Arizona Immunization Program Office (AIPO) at 602-364-3630.

Sincerely,

Cara Christ, M.D., M.S.  
Medical Director  
Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control

Karen Lewis, M.D.  
Medical Director  
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