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Experts in High-Risk Pregnancy Applaud CDC Discussions of Janssen COVID Vaccine
Newly-Approved COVID Vaccine Will be Available to to Pregnant and Lactating People

March 1, 2021 - The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on February 28 – March 1, 2021 to develop recommendations to guide the administration and distribution of the Janssen Biotech, Inc. SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (Janssen COVID vaccine). The Society for Maternal-Fetal (SMFM) released the following statement in response:

"SMFM applauds ACIP's recent discussion, which will allow pregnant and lactating people access to the Janssen COVID vaccine. Recent data have demonstrated that pregnant people are more likely to have severe COVID disease, including an increased risk of ICU admission and death. Further, people with COVID-19 are at an increased risk of preterm birth.

In general, SMFM strongly recommends that pregnant and lactating people have access to COVID-19 vaccines and that they engage in a discussion about potential benefits and unknown risks with healthcare providers regarding receipt of the vaccine. As stated previously, counseling should balance the lack of data on vaccine safety for the fetus, risks to pregnant people from COVID-19 infection, and a person's individual risk for infection and severe disease.

SMFM acknowledges that limited data exist regarding COVID-19 vaccine safety in pregnant and lactating people and has long [advocated that these populations be included in clinical trials](#). As data emerge, counseling and clinical recommendations will likely shift, as some vaccines may be more suitable for pregnant people."

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About SMFM

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is a non-profit, membership organization based in Washington, DC. With more than 5,000 physicians, scientists and women's health professionals around the world, the Society supports the clinical practice of maternal-fetal medicine by providing education, promoting research, and engaging in advocacy to optimize the health of high-risk pregnant women and their babies. SMFM hosts an annual scientific meeting in which new ideas and research related to high-risk pregnancies are unveiled and discussed. For more information, visit SMFM.org.