



## **Experts in High-Risk Pregnancy Support the Inclusion of Pregnant People in COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates**

**August 13, 2021** – The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) supports recent calls from leaders in healthcare, business, education, and government to mandate COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible employees and students. Further, SMFM urges these institutions to include pregnant and lactating people in such vaccine mandates.

Pregnant people infected by the COVID-19 virus face greater risks for severe disease and complications than those who are not pregnant. Pregnant people infected with COVID-19 are more likely to be admitted to the intensive care unit and to require advanced life support or intubation. They are also at increased risk of dying from COVID-19. Despite these increased risks, SMFM has noted with concern that some institutions with COVID-19 vaccine mandates are excluding pregnant people.

[SMFM](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), and [other public health experts](#) recommend that pregnant people be vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccination is the best way to reduce the risks of COVID-19 infection and COVID-related complications for pregnant people. Recent data released from the CDC demonstrates that COVID-19 vaccinations are safe before, during, and after pregnancy.

Health care workers are at high-risk for COVID-19 exposure, so it is especially important to include pregnant and lactating health care workers in COVID-19 vaccine mandates. In addition to affording significant individual-level protection, keeping pregnant health care workers safe also enables them to continue providing medical care to those who are sick with COVID-19 or other illnesses. In the United States, women make up 75% of healthcare personnel; many of them are of reproductive age. Therefore, SMFM support the inclusion of pregnant people in COVID-19 vaccine mandates