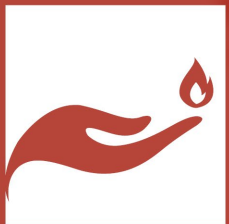


# COVID WEBINAR

## Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in Pregnancy

**Friday, September 17, 2021**  
**1:00 pm Eastern Time**



**NATIONAL  
NURSE-LED CARE  
CONSORTIUM**  
a PHMC affiliate



**Andrea T. Williamson,  
MSN, BSN, RN, CCRN**

Certified Registered  
Nurse Anesthetist



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APRN, FNP-BC, NCSN**

Nurse Practitioner



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OBHG-OB Hospitalist  
and Associate Professor



**NATIONAL  
NURSE-LED CARE  
CONSORTIUM**  
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The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) is a non-profit membership organization that supports nurse-led care and nurses at the front lines of care.

NNCC supports comprehensive, community-based primary care and public health nursing through policy and advocacy, program development and management, technical assistance and support, and direct, nurse-led healthcare services.

Learn more at [NurseLedCare.org](https://NurseLedCare.org)

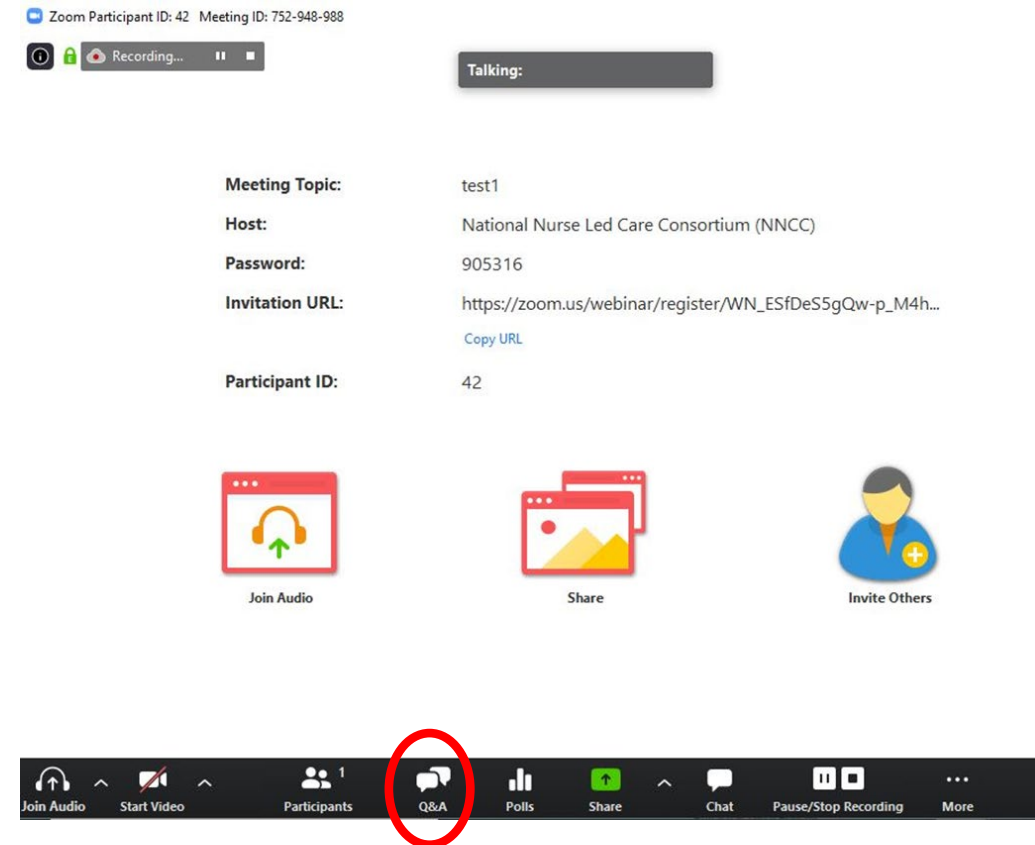
# Housekeeping Items

## Question & Answer

- Click Q&A and type your questions into the open field.
- The Moderator will either send a typed response or answer your questions live at the end of the presentation.

## Continuing Education Credits

- Please complete the evaluation survey after today's training.
- Certificate will arrive within 3 weeks of completing the survey.



# Nurse-Led Vaccine Confidence Project

NNCC is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to build COVID-19 vaccine confidence among nurses and the communities they serve.

Through this project, NNCC strives to:

- ✓ Empower nurses with the necessary information to engage with care teams and communities about COVID-19 vaccines
- ✓ Provide learning opportunities to share up-to-date guidance, support peer engagement among nursing colleagues, and strengthen the nursing role
- ✓ Amplify the nursing voice by featuring everyday nurse champions through our podcast and other media.

Visit [nurseledcare.org](https://nurseledcare.org) to learn more!





# Nurse-Led Forum for Vaccine Confidence

**Our aims** are to create a bi-weekly forum to:

- Explore questions around vaccine hesitancy
- Share strategies for building confidence in COVID-19 vaccines among nurses and communities they serve
- Learn perspectives from the field and promising practices for vaccine communications, partnerships, and decision-making

*This webinar was funded in part by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (grant number NU50CK000580). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this resource center do not necessarily represent the policy of CDC or HHS, and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.*

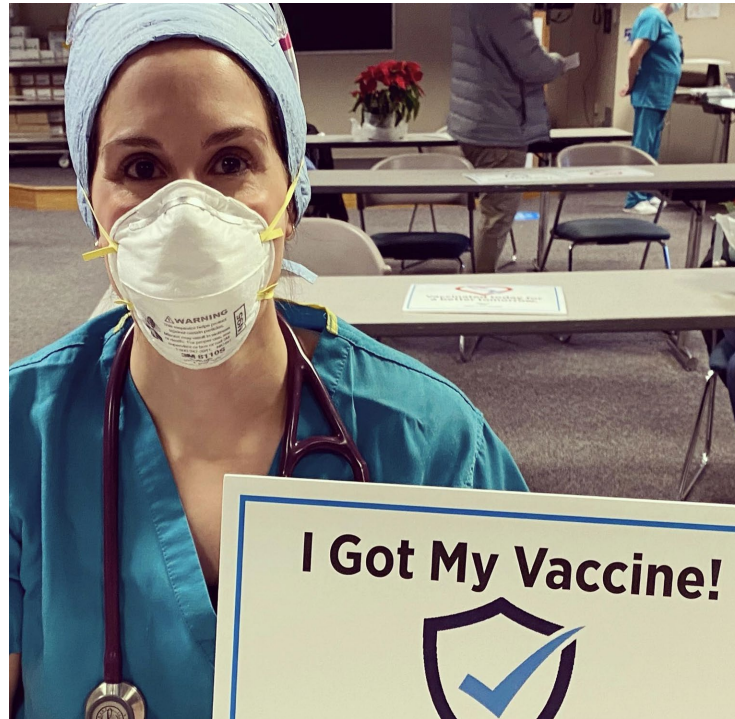
# COVID-19 Vaccine News & Resources

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
[COVID-19 State of Vaccine Confidence Insights Report #14](#)
- Georgia Institute of Technology  
[COVID-19 Accessible Resources](#)
- JAMA Article Aug. 30, 2021  
[Racial/Ethnic Differences in COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Health Care Workers in 2 Large Academic Hospitals](#)
- FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee

# Speakers



**Adeline Kline, MSN, APRN**



**Andrea Williamson, MSN, CCRN**



**Dr Shannon Bailey, FACOG, MBA-HCM**



# Addressing COVID-19 Vaccination Hesitancy in Pregnant Individuals

A review of current evidence and personal stories from the front lines



# OBJECTIVES



Review recent guidelines supporting the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy.

Identify common concerns women cite when reluctant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy.

Tips for talking to patients, friends and family in a non judgmental way to encourage vaccination while pregnant.

# Relevant Dates

August 23rd the Pfizer vaccine received full FDA approval

**August 11th 2021 CDC recommended vaccination for all pregnant women**

August 9th 2021 Statement of Strong Medical Consensus for Vaccination of Pregnant Individuals Against COVID-19

As of July 30th > 139,000 pregnant women had reported being vaccinated without any unexpected pregnancy or fetal problems

February 27, 2021 Johnson & Johnson's single dose COVID-19 vaccine received an EUA

December 18, 2021 Moderna received an EUA for the second COVID-19 mRNA vaccine

December 11th Pfizer is granted EUA for it's COVID-19 mRNA vaccine

## Protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19. Get vaccinated.



- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant, or might become pregnant in the future.
- The benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy.
- There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause problems trying to get pregnant.
- COVID-19 vaccination in people who are pregnant or breastfeeding builds antibodies that might protect their baby.

**Ask your provider about the COVID-19 vaccine.**



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# COVID-19 Infection Risk in Pregnancy

Current data suggest that pregnant patients with COVID-19 are at increased risk of more severe disease than their non pregnant peers. Including:

- Increased ICU admission
- Increased need for mechanical ventilation and ECMO
- Higher mortality rates

Pregnant and recently pregnant patients with comorbidities such as diabetes and obesity may be at an even higher risk. (ACOG, pg 14)



# US monitoring for vaccine safety in pregnancy



- CDC and FDA: Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)
- V-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry The v-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry is a registry to collect additional health information from v-safe participants who report being pregnant at the time of vaccination or a positive pregnancy test after vaccination.
- CDC: Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) — A network of nine integrated healthcare organizations across the United States that monitor and evaluate the safety of vaccines.
- CDC: Birth Defects Study to Evaluate Pregnancy Exposures (BD-STEPS)

# COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy



- No evidence of adverse maternal or fetal effects. The growing body of evidence supports the safety of all 3 vaccines approved in the United States
  - No increased risk of rare blood clot with Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) in pregnancy (CDC, 2021)
- Data from a CDC analysis of 2,500 women who received a mRNA COVID-19 vaccination shows no increase of miscarriage when given in early pregnancy
- Claims linking COVID-19 vaccination to infertility are unfounded and have no scientific evidence supporting them
- Side effects experienced from the vaccines among pregnant individuals are consistent with the mild side effects experienced by the general public
  - Fever in pregnancy should be managed by acetaminophen



# Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnant and Lactating Individuals

- Protective against COVID-19 and the new circulating variants
- Pregnant and lactating women produce comparable immune responses as non pregnant individuals and higher titers than individuals who had a COVID-19 infection while pregnant (Perl SH, Uzan-Yulzari A, Klainer H, et al.)
- Vaccine generated antibodies are present in umbilical cord blood and breastmilk, implying increased protection for newborns after delivery (Gray 2021, Prabhu 2021, Juncker 2021)



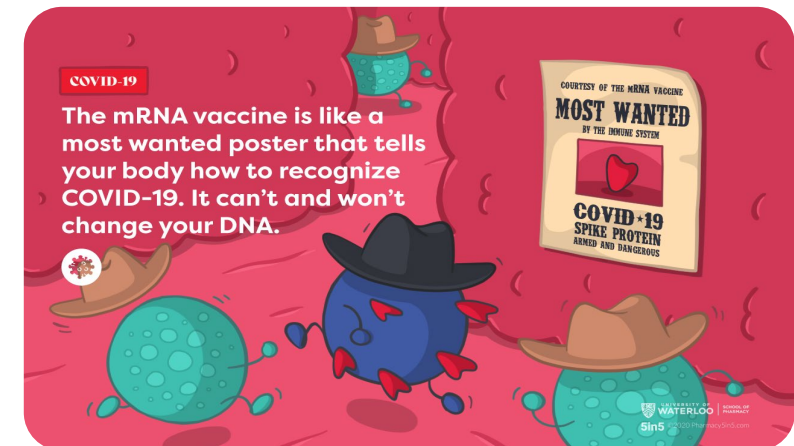
# Important Considerations

- COVID-19 vaccination no longer needs to be separated out by 2 weeks from other recommended vaccines in pregnancy including Tdap and Influenza (Grohskopf LA, Alyanak E, Ferdinands JM, et al.)
- Booster shoots
- Pregnant individuals under 18
- Timing of vaccination
- Remove barriers to vaccination




# Common Concerns Heard From Pregnant Individuals

- Concern it will harm the fetus
- Concern it will affect future fertility of mom or baby
- Concern that there is not enough research yet
- Worry that unvaccinated family and friends will judge them
- Worry over side effects
- Concern that mRNA vaccines will alter DNA



# Resources to Share with Pregnant Individuals

- 
- [CDC pregnancy and COVID-19](#)
  - [WHO science in 5](#)
  - [ACOG Toolkit for patients and COVID-19](#)

# How to Address Patient Concerns

Focus on the effects of COVID-19 disease and how vaccination can reduce some of these fears/limitations

Lead by example

Remind women that it is important they take care of themselves during pregnancy

Studies show that patients trust their healthcare providers over others to advise them on vaccine guidance

Discuss the COVID-19 vaccine at every visit, and document the discussion in their chart

Stick to the facts, remind patients you have the best interest of them and their fetus that is why they come to see you





# Talking Tips

Connect with their values

Don't interrupt

Help them feel empowered

Do not focus on the myths

- **Start with the fact.** COVID-19 vaccines are extremely safe and effective.
- **Warn before the myth is coming.** Say, "there is misinformation about\_\_\_\_\_."
- **Mention the fallacy (myth) that you are addressing.**
- **End with the fact.** Show why the myth is not true.

The most important thing is to "replace the misinformation with the correct information" (UNICEF, 2021)



# Managing challenging patients

- Take a deep breath
- Listen
- Stick to facts
- People are more likely to listen when they feel heard
- Try not to get pulled into an emotional battle
- Give yourself permission to move on

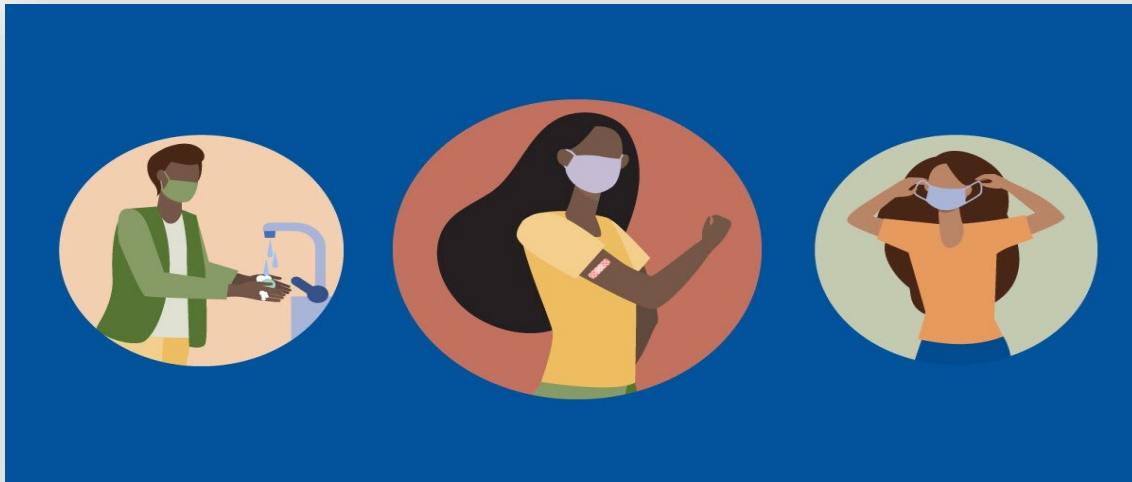


# The Fourth Trimester

Remind expectant parents it's ok to set boundaries

Acknowledge the stress and anxiety the pandemic adds to life with a newborn

Reinforce habits that work



## RULES FOR VISITORS

- MUST HAVE COVID, TDAP & FLU VACCINES
- SCHEDULE VISIT IN ADVANCE
- WASH HANDS WHEN YOU COME IN
- MUST WEAR MASK
- NO KISSING THE BABY
- RESCHEDULE IF YOU ARE FEELING ILL
- PLEASE WAIT AT LEAST ONE WEEK AFTER ATTENDING ANY LARGE GATHERING OR EVENT

Thank you for being so understanding in these very strange times! We love you all and we can't wait for you to meet our little one - in a healthy and safe manner.



# Personal Perspectives



Eleanora Grace 4 months



Henry Robert 6 months

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Questions?





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# Q&A





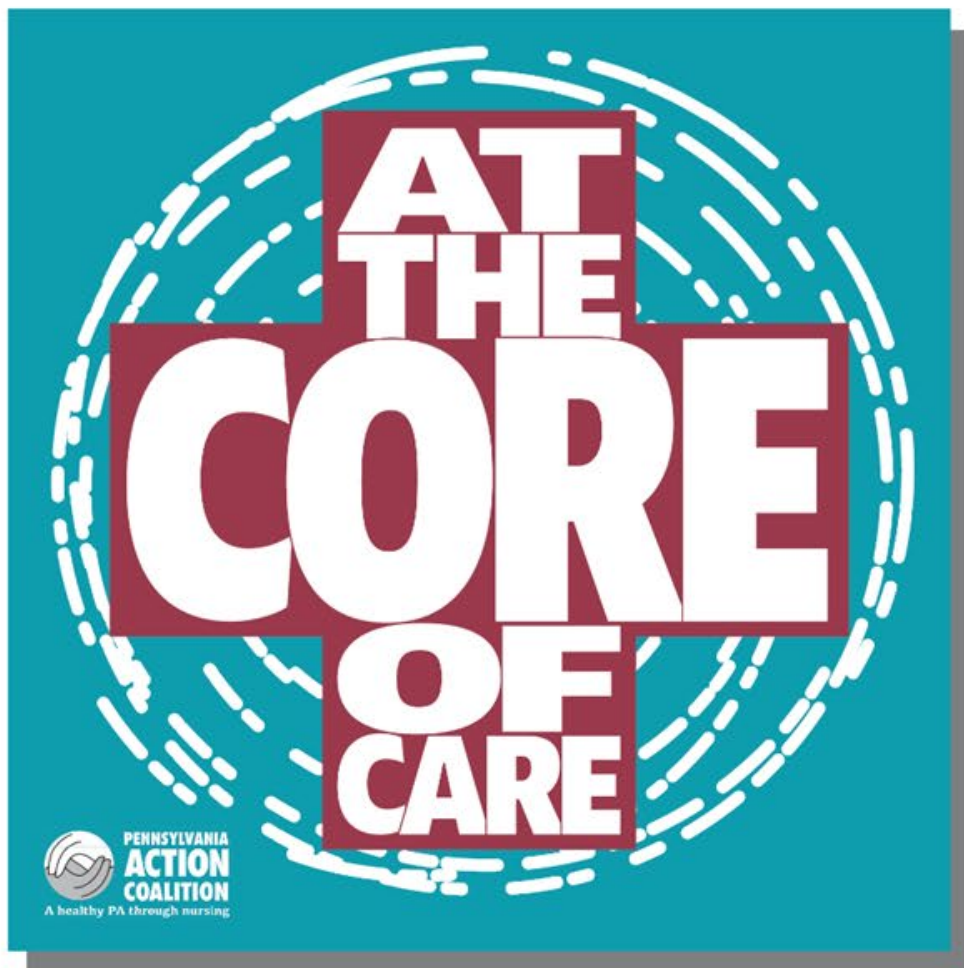
# Nurses make change happen.

Be a part of history.

This toolkit was created to give nurses the tools to do their part in the national vaccine effort. It is designed to help you decrease vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccination rates in your community.



[nurseledcare.org/toolkit](https://nurseledcare.org/toolkit)



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