



MMWR™

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Recommendations and Reports

February 8, 2002 / Vol. 51 / No. RR-2

General Recommendations on Immunization

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

Breast-Feeding and Vaccination

Neither inactivated nor live vaccines administered to a lactating woman affect the safety of breast-feeding for mothers or infants. Breast-feeding does not adversely affect immunization and is not a contraindication for any vaccine. Limited data indicate that breast-feeding can enhance the response to certain vaccine antigens (123). Breast-fed infants should be vaccinated according to routine recommended schedules (124–126).

Although live vaccines multiply within the mother's body, the majority have not been demonstrated to be excreted in human milk. Although rubella vaccine virus might be excreted in human milk, the virus usually does not infect the infant. If infection does occur, it is well-tolerated because the viruses are attenuated (127). Inactivated, recombinant, subunit, polysaccharide, conjugate vaccines and toxoids pose no risk for mothers who are breast-feeding or for their infants.

References

123. Pickering LK, Granoff DM, Erickson JR, et al. Modulation of the immune system by human milk and infant formula containing nucleotides. *Pediatrics* 1998;101:242–9.
124. Kim-Farley R, Brink E, Orenstein W, Bart K. Vaccination and breast feeding [Letter]. *JAMA* 1982;248:2451–2.
125. Patriaca PA, Wright PF, John TJ. Factors affecting the immunogenicity of oral polio vaccine in developing countries: review. *Rev Infect Dis* 1991;13:926–39.
126. Hahn-Zoric M, Fulconis F, Minoli I, et al. Antibody responses to parenteral and oral vaccines are impaired by conventional and low-protein formulas as compared to breast feeding. *Acta Paediatr Scand* 1990;79:1137–42.
127. Krogh V, Duffy LC, Wong D, Rosenband M, Riddlesberger KR, Ogra PL. Postpartum immunization with rubella virus vaccine and antibody response in breast-feeding infants. *J Lab Clin Med* 1989;113:695–9.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™