

To: All members of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS)

Re: H1N1 vaccination in pregnancy

There are 2 issues that should be communicated to pregnant women with regards to H1N1 vaccination in pregnancy. These are:

- 1. Like other influenza viruses, the H1N1 virus seems to affect pregnant women more adversely than other individuals. Worldwide, this has resulted in ICU admissions and deaths in some pregnant patients worldwide.**
- 2. The specific safety of the H1N1 vaccine has not been established in pregnancy. The experience with the use of other influenza vaccines (using similar constituents) during pregnancy was that it did not have any common major complications when given in any trimester of pregnancy. The H1N1 vaccine is unlikely to show otherwise.**

The majority of national bodies in US, UK and most of Europe have recommended that pregnant women be among the first to be vaccinated against H1N1. Vaccination may be considered in the second and third trimesters for pregnant women, and earlier in the first trimester if co-morbidities such as asthma exist.

OGSS task force on H1N1 infection in pregnancy

(Drs Tony Tan, Tan Lay Kok, Devendra S/O Kanagalingam, Suresh Nair)