



Why are pregnant women prioritized for vaccination?

A: Data from early 2009 H1N1 influenza cases in the United States show that pregnant women account for a disproportionate number of deaths, making them a high-priority group for vaccination (see [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)61304-0/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61304-0/abstract)). Also, guidance has been issued for clinicians to promptly treat pregnant women who become infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus with antiviral drugs (see http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinician_pregnant.htm).