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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA Urges Influenza Vaccine for Pregnant, Postpartum Women
Joins CDC, Other Leading Health Groups in Making Recommendation

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) has joined with nine other national health care organizations in urging pregnant women and women who have recently given birth to get the seasonal influenza vaccination for the 2010-11 influenza season.

ANA is encouraging nurses to educate patients who are pregnant or postpartum about the benefits of seasonal influenza vaccination and the risks of the illness to themselves and their unborn child or infant. For example, the risk of premature labor and delivery is greater for pregnant women with influenza. The recommendation applies to pregnant and postpartum women even if they received the H1N1 or seasonal influenza vaccine last year.

“One of registered nurses’ key roles is to educate patients about health matters and to help them maintain wellness and prevent illness,” said ANA President Karen Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. “ANA is pleased to join other leading organizations to protect the health of women and children who are especially vulnerable to the effects of seasonal influenza.”

ANA is one of 10 signatories on an open letter to health care professionals who work with pregnant and postpartum women, an outreach effort spearheaded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

To read the letter and view the signatories: <http://nursingworld.org/pregnant>.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

