Experts combat misinformation about COVID vaccine and childbearing that puts women and babies at risk

When verified information is sought, the evidence strongly favors vaccination

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	SEARCHING ONLINE FOR INFO ON THE COVID-19 VACCINE PRODUCES <u>A LOT</u> OF RESULTS, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE – OR ARE HOPING TO BECOME – PREGNANT. COMING UP, HOW TO SIFT THROUGH THE DETAILS TO FIND THE VERIFIED INFORMATION AND MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE.
ANCHOR LEAD	WHEN IT COMES TO RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE, MANY PEOPLE UNDERSTANDABLY WANT TO DO THEIR RESEARCH BEFORE MAKING A DECISION, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE PREGNANT OR PLANNING TO HAVE A BABY. SO HOW CAN YOU TELL FACT FROM FICTION, OR EVEN FROM MISINFORMATION DELIBERATELY PLANTED TO DECEIVE? BARB CONSIGLIO HAS SOME TIPS FROM MEDICAL EXPERTS ON HOW TO GET TO THE TRUTH TO MAKE A CHOICE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE WITH.
(PACKAGE START) CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center :00 - :03	(Nats - Sound) :02 KATHARINE HAYES WAS TWELVE WEEKS
Shots of Katharine with her son	PREGNANT WHEN SHE BECAME ELIGIBLE FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE. :04
CG: Katharine Hayes Received COVID vaccine while pregnant	<i>"I had some questions about where the vaccine came from, how the technology was developed and stuff like that. Where did the cells come from for them to develop the technology? And so I started just Googling." :11</i>
Montage of headlines	GETTING TRUTHFUL AND VERIFIED INFORMATION ABOUT THE VACCINE CAN BE OVERWHELMING WITH ALL OF THE CLICK BAIT, OPINIONS AND MISINFORMATION OUT THERE, PARTICULARLY FOR WOMEN PLANNING TO HAVE A BABY. MYTHS ABOUT INFERTILITY AND PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS ARE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, BUT

Shots of Dr. Colburn putting on PPE	INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERTS AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER ¹ SAY THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ALL POINTS IN ONE DIRECTION ^{3,4} . :21
CG: Dr. Nora Colburn Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	"There is 100% no evidence to support that vaccines cause infertility. This is a cruel rumor that is preying upon the fear that a lot of women have of not being able to have children." :11
Shots of woman being vaccinated	THE RESEARCH ALSO SHOWS THAT PREGNANT WOMEN WHO CHOOSE NOT TO GET VACCINATED PUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR BABIES AT RISK. :05
Dr. Colburn (CG'd earlier)	"They are at much higher risk than a non-pregnant person of ending up in the ICU, of ending up on a ventilator, of dying." :06
Shots of Hoying reading online information	BUT HOW CAN YOU SIFT THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS OF MATERIAL TO GET THE FACTS? :04
CG: Jacqueline Hoying, PhD, RN Ohio State College of Nursing	"Consumers should be asking themselves some of these questions: Who wrote it? Who's reviewed it? And how recent is the information?" :08
Shots of Hoying verifying info for Community Core	OHIO STATE'S FULD INSTITUTE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE HAS LAUNCHED THE COMMUNITY CORE ² , WHICH OFFERS EXPERTISE IN FINDING VERIFIED, EVIDENCE-BASED INFORMATION PEOPLE CAN TRUST TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR HEALTH. :07
Jacqueline Hoying (CG'd earlier)	<i>"We also aim to educate people about being able to look at a website and decide for themselves, is this accurate or not?" :08</i>
Shots of Katharine with her son	AFTER TALKING WITH HER DOCTOR, KATHARINE KNEW VACCINATION WAS THE BEST CHOICE FOR BOTH HER AND BABY JENSEN. :05
Katharine Hayes (CG'd earlier)	<i>"If it was more of the honest, the true information that was coming out and people were reading more often, I think we'd have a lot more people vaccinated and we'd be further along through this pandemic than we are now." :10</i>
Dr. Colburn (CG'd earlier)	"That is the way that we're going to end this pandemic, is everybody getting vaccinated so this virus doesn't have a place to go and infect more people." :08
Shots of Katharine with her son	AT THE OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER,

(PACKAGE END)	THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03
ANCHOR TAG	EXPERTS STRESS THAT YOUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE IS THE BEST PLACE TO SEEK HEALTH
	INFORMATION. BUT IF YOU ARE SEARCHING ONLINE, IT'S IMPORTANT TO VERIFY INFORMATION BEFORE SPREADING MYTHS FURTHER THAT COULD DECEPTIVELY DETER PEOPLE FROM RECEIVING THEIR COVID-19 VACCINE.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share it! Suggested tweet:	People understandably want to do their research about the COVID-19 vaccine, especially those who are pregnant or planning to have a baby. Experts at @OSUWexMed help people sift through the myths and misinformation to get the facts you need to make an informed decision. https://bit.ly/3IJUCkB
Suggested post:	Searching online for information about the COVID-19 vaccines produces <u>a lot</u> of results, especially for those who are pregnant or trying to conceive. So how can you tell fact from fiction or even information that is deceptive? Experts at <u>The Ohio State University Wexner Medical</u> <u>Center</u> help break down the myths and get to the evidence-based facts that will help you make an informed decision. <u>https://bit.ly/3IJUCkB</u>

EXTRA BITES

CG: Dr. Nora Colburn Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	Colburn says there are no known long-term effects of vaccines: "In the history of vaccines, I do not know of any long-term effects that showed up after eight weeks. So we've been studying the COVID-19 vaccines, the phase three trial started 14 months ago, and there've been no effects that have been reported outside of a few weeks of vaccination." :18
	Colburn lists some ways to determine if information is credible: "Where does the information come from? Does it seem credible? Are they citing sources and studies that seem transparent? Are they citing reputable medical journals, such as The New England Journal of Medicine or the Journal of The American Medical Association? Or is it just this one person saying this thing over and over and over again?" :19

CG: Dr. Nora Colburn Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	Colburn explains how the vaccine was developed quickly: "There was funding and there was a lot of patients available. Whereas normally in vaccine trials, it takes a very long time to recruit people. It takes a very long time to get the funding and it's a very slow process. So all that red tape was cut out." :13 Colburn says it is difficult to combat myths and it can be defeating: "My colleagues are tired. They feel defeated. And we feel like we are just screaming into the void. We have the tools to prevent these infections and people aren't taking them."
	:13 Hoying offers some tactics to verify a website as credible: "Is there an email? Is there a phone number? Look at the privacy policy section. Do they want your information? What are they going to do with it? And then, what's their mission? Why does this website exist?" :13
CG: Jacqueline Hoying, PhD, RN Ohio State College of Nursing	Hoying says doing research doesn't always mean you're looking at credible information: "Research is a loose term. People use that, right, to mean that they've looked at whatever on media outlet sites. But research and evidence-based, when we talk about that, we're talking about the scientists who have run the study, they've run the research consistently." :17
	Hoying says if information seems too good to be true, maybe it is: "If you do see information and it seems too good to be true, or it seems unbelievable, maybe it is, and you should probably verify it. So go back and look at the site, look at the contact information, see who's directing it. Where is it coming from?" :15
	Hoying says people should avoid sharing unverified information: <i>"If you're concerned about it, don't share it. We really</i> <i>need to be thinking a little bit, just slow down and take in</i> <i>the information first before we just retweet it or put it back</i> <i>out there." :11</i>
CG: Katharine Hayes Received the COVID vaccine while pregnant	Katharine says she got her vaccine to protect her baby: "When we found out that we were pregnant after 12 years of not being able to have kids, I knew for sure that I would want to 100%, but I was a little nervous with this baby that came out of nowhere. It was pretty much a miracle. It was important to keep him and I protected as much as possible so I decided that I was going to do it. I did a lot of research." :21

CG: Katharine Hayes Received the COVID vaccine while pregnant	Katharine says she consulted with her doctors about getting the vaccine during pregnancy: "I talked to my primary care doctor and my OB-GYN, and they both said that they completely felt comfortable with me getting it, that they didn't think it was going to harm the baby at all, or harm me at all in any way or I was going to have any more side effects than anybody else. That made me feel even more comfortable getting it." :16 Katharine says her older children and the rest of her family are vaccinated: "Our older children decided that they wanted to get vaccinated to also help protect the baby, to help protect older members of our families. Even our extended family, they've all gotten vaccinated because they knew that we were bringing this baby into the family and it was important for us all to remain healthy, not just for ourselves, but so we could get together sooner and everyone could get a chance to see each other, including the new baby." :19
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References

¹COVID-19 vaccines before and during pregnancy: What to know, **The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Sept 14, 2021.** Online:

https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/blog/covid-19-vaccines-pregnancy

²Community Core, **The Ohio State University College of Nursing, 2021.** Online: <u>https://fuld.nursing.osu.edu/cores/communitycore</u>

³ASRM, ACOG and SMFM Issue Joint Statement: Medical Experts Continue to Assert that COVID Vaccines Do Not Impact Fertility, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Feb 5, 2021. Online: https://www.asrm.org/news-and-publications/news-and-research/press-releases-and-bulletins/asrm-smf m-acog-issue-joint-statement-medical-experts-continue-to-assert-that-covid-vaccines-do-not-impact-fert ility/

⁴COVID-19 Vaccines for People Who Would Like to Have a Baby, **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 25, 2021.** Online: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7025e2.htm</u>

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