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To Whom It May Concern,

The health care providers at West Ridge OB/GYN in accordance with Centers for Disease Control, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, and the New York State Department of Health guidelines, advise our pregnant patients to be vaccinated in **all** trimesters against seasonal influenza and 2009 H1N1 influenza. Pregnant women are high priority in the list of patients to be vaccinated because they are at higher risk of complications, and vaccination in pregnancy can potentially provide protection to infants, who cannot be vaccinated within the first 6 months of life.

If thimerosal-free vaccines are not accessible during this influenza season, vaccination of pregnant women with inactivated vaccine is still recommended because the substantial risk of complications or death from influenza disease in this group outweighs the unproven risk of vaccination with thimerosal-containing vaccine.

For more information regarding influenza vaccination in pregnancy please refer to the links below.

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

<http://www.acog.org/departments/resourceCenter/2009H1N1JointDearColleagueLtr.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/pregnant_qa.htm

NYS Department of Health

http://nyhealth.gov/regulations/public_health_law/section/2112/information_for_physicians/update_to_state_law_restricting_thimerosal.htm

If you still have further questions, please contact one of our offices at 585-225-1580 (Greece) or 585-671-6790 (Webster).

Thank you for helping to protect our patients during this influenza season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy M. Dwyer MD".

Wendy M. Dwyer, MD, FACOG
Medical Director, West Ridge Obstetrics & Gynecology