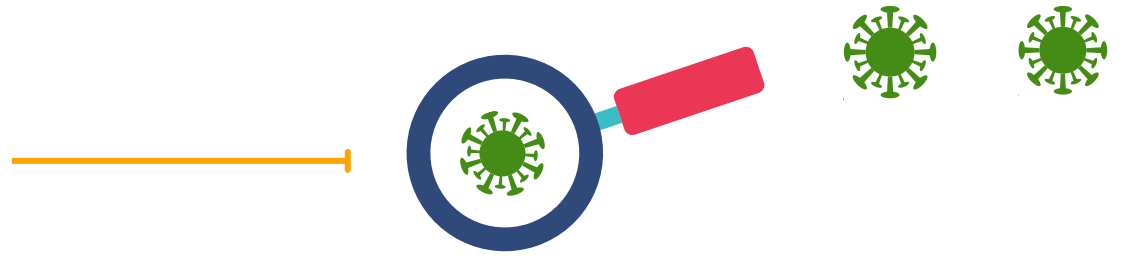


How Flu and Tdap Vaccines Work in Pregnancy

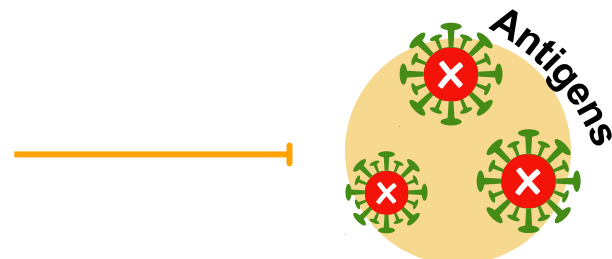
1. Flu and Tdap Vaccines

Vaccines are like a “practice run” for your body’s natural defences. Flu and Tdap vaccines show your body a harmless “**preview**” of a germ, so your body can learn to recognize and fight it off.



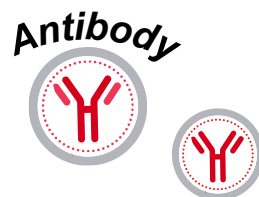
2. How Do They Work?

Flu and Tdap vaccines give your body a preview of a germ using **antigens**. Antigens are harmless, dead pieces of the germ. They allow your body to **practice** fighting off the germs **safely** without giving you the disease.



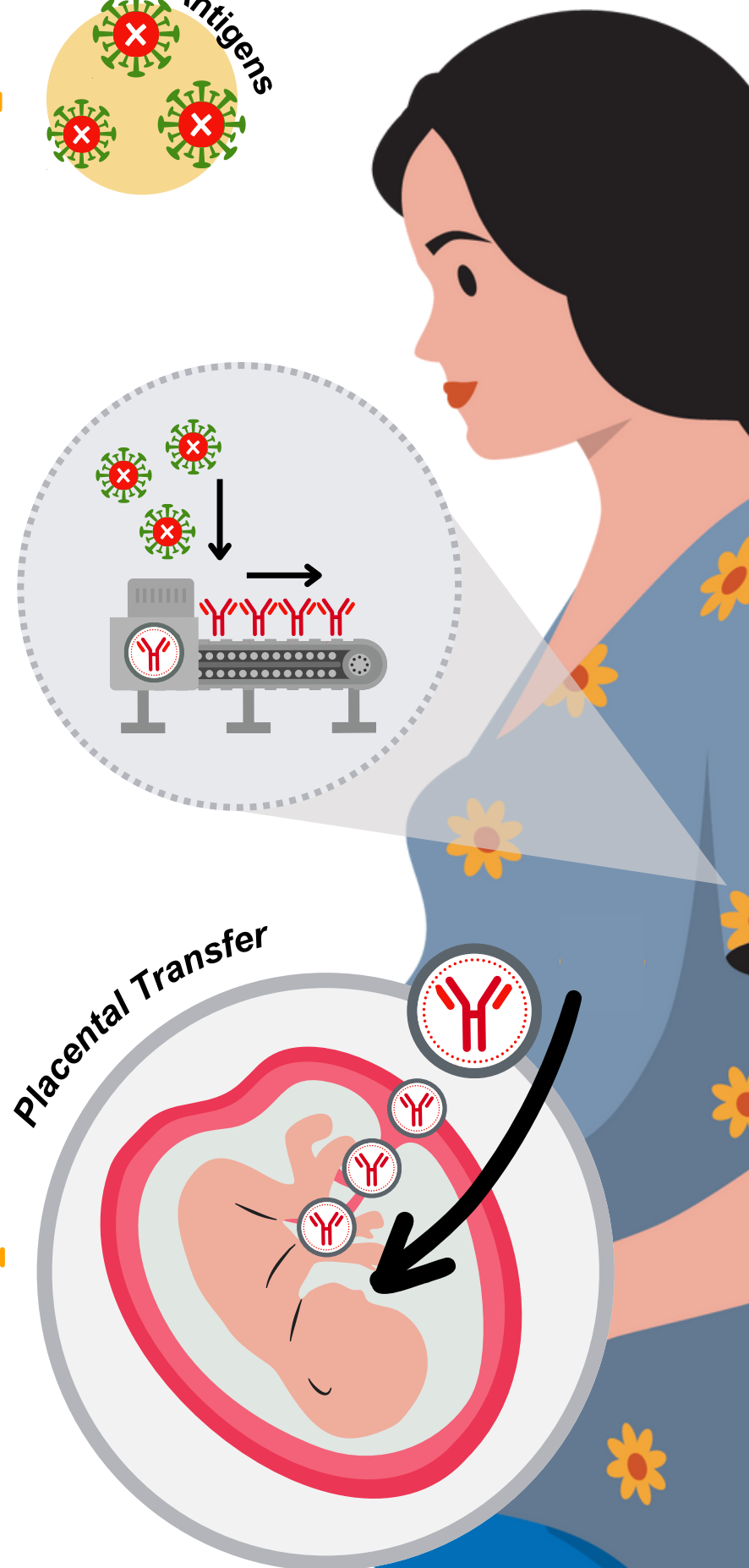
3. Getting Vaccinated

When you get vaccinated, your body sees the antigens in the vaccine as unwelcome intruders. It responds by making **protective antibodies** that will fight off the actual germ if you ever get it in the future.



4. Sharing Protection

During pregnancy, **your body passes protective antibodies through the placenta to your baby**. These antibodies will protect your baby at birth and over the first few months until they are old enough to get their own vaccines. This means your baby will have a **layer of protection** when they need it the most. Only the protective antibodies your body makes pass to your baby in **significant amounts**.



5. What Happens to the Vaccine?

Vaccine ingredients generally stay close to the injection site, in your muscle and lymphatic system. Once the vaccine has finished training your immune system to defend against a germ, your body will **naturally break down and remove the vaccine ingredients**, just like it does with other materials it doesn't need anymore. The vaccine ingredients are out of your body after several weeks.

6. Protection for Two

If you or your baby are exposed to the actual germs in the future, **your antibodies are ready to fight them off and protect you from severe illness.**

