

# Protecting Baby from HIV:

## Preventing HIV Transmission from Mother to Baby



- Pregnant women with HIV should take medicines that control HIV (antiretrovirals) before, during, and after pregnancy.
- Babies should be given HIV medicines after birth and continue for the first 2 to 6 weeks of life.



- The use of formula eliminates the risk of HIV transmission through feeding.
- For mothers consistently taking HIV medicines, with undetectable levels of HIV in their blood, the risk of transmission through breastfeeding is less than 1%, but not zero.
- Mothers should discuss options for feeding their babies with their providers.



- Pregnant women with high or unknown levels of HIV in their blood may have a scheduled C-section (Cesarean section) to reduce the risk of HIV transmission to the baby during delivery.

For more information, visit [HIVinfo.NIH.gov](https://HIVinfo.NIH.gov).