



## Is COVID vaccination safe for pregnant women?

- Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women across the world have had the vaccine with no safety concerns.
- The vaccine reduces the chances of pregnant women becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and we know that vaccines are safe for them.
- There is double the risk of stillbirth and preterm birth if pregnant women catch COVID-19.
- COVID vaccines do NOT contain live coronavirus or any additional ingredients that are known to be harmful to pregnant women or their babies. Other non-live vaccines (whooping cough, influenza) are safe for pregnant women and their unborn babies and have been given for years.
- There is no evidence to suggest any harm to the unborn baby following COVID vaccination and is considered to be extremely unlikely based on evidence from other on-live vaccines.



## Where can I find more information?

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine – NHS](#)
- [COVID vaccination guides – UKHSA](#) – translations and easyread available
- [Safety of COVID vaccines](#) – WHO
- [COVID vaccine questions](#) – British Society for Immunology
- [COVID vaccine fertility and pregnancy](#) – RCOG

You can always discuss the benefits and risks of having the vaccine based on your individual circumstances with your healthcare professional.

**If you have not had your first or second dose, it is never too late to come forward – every dose counts.**



## How do I book my COVID vaccine?

Anyone aged 16 or over and is registered with a GP can book their first, second or booster COVID vaccine [online](#) or call 119 to make an appointment.

If you are unregistered you can get a COVID vaccination at a [walk-in or pop-up site](#), where there are no ID checks and your immigration status is not relevant.

# All you need to know about the COVID-19 Vaccination



**Vaccination allows you to develop immunity in a safe and controlled way, without being ill with COVID-19 and passing it others.**

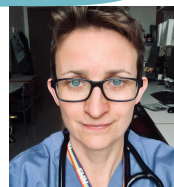
## **Why should I be vaccinated against COVID-19?**

COVID vaccines:

- protect against serious illness, hospitalisation and death - people who are unvaccinated are up to eight times more likely to be hospitalised with COVID-19
- reduce the likelihood of you getting COVID-19
- reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others including to vulnerable people
- strongly recommended in pregnancy as this is the best way to protect against the known risks of COVID-19 in pregnancy
- reduce the risk of developing Long COVID – a UK study of double-vaccinated adults, showed a 41% lower likelihood of reporting Long COVID than unvaccinated people

**"I was working with an unvaccinated pregnant lady with COVID-19 infection who was on a ventilator and I had to tell her that we needed to plan for an early delivery for the baby and that the baby may have complications."**

Dr Kate Wiles, Obstetric physician at Royal London Hospital



## **Are the COVID vaccines safe?**

- Billions of people have been safely vaccinated against COVID-19 around the world
- Like all medicines and vaccines, the COVID vaccines underwent extensive and rigorous multi-stage testing through clinical trials.
- The COVID vaccines are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness. In the UK this is by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- Serious adverse reactions and side effects are extremely rare and are investigated. Remember that COVID-19 disease itself can cause serious complications in the short term and Long COVID.
- COVID vaccines were tested on tens of thousands of men and women from different ethnic backgrounds and there is no evidence any of the vaccines will work differently in different ethnic groups.
- COVID vaccines do not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 and can be used by everybody, including immunocompromised individuals or people with autoimmune disease.

**"Having all your COVID vaccinations is one of the strongest ways we can protect all our communities."**

Dr Oge Ilozue, GP Partner and Senior Clinical Advisor, COVID Vaccination Programme – NHS London region



## **Why do I need more doses of the vaccine?**

- Vaccine effectiveness wears off in time, so a booster dose will help to reduce the risk of you needing admission to hospital due to COVID-19 and give broader protection against new variants.
- The aim of the vaccine is primarily to reduce serious illness and deaths, which it has been successful in doing.
- Even if you have already had COVID-19, getting the COVID vaccine will add extra protection, stimulate a stronger and longer lasting immune response than natural infection, which will help against any future new variants.



**"Getting your booster jab is the most effective way of protecting yourself and others from infection and severe disease from COVID-19."**

Dr Tehseen Khan, GP and Senior Clinical Advisor to London COVID vaccination programme – NHS London region

