COVID-19 Vaccination: pregnancy, fertility and families

❓ What are the benefits of COVID vaccination for pregnant women?

The vaccine reduces the chances of pregnant women becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and we know that vaccines are safe for them.

Hospital admissions are higher in pregnant women who are unvaccinated and t

There is double the risk of stillbirth and preterm birth if pregnant women catch COVID-19.

❓ Are the vaccines safe?

Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women across the world have had the vaccine with no safety concerns.

COVID-19 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?

- COVID-19 and pregnancy information for women and their families - Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Should I get the COVID vaccine - Royal College of Midwives
- COVID-19 vaccination: a guide on pregnancy and Breastfeeding - UKHSA
- Pregnancy and COVID-19 - NHS
- COVID-19 vaccine Q&A: fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding - British Society for Immunology

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"COVID-19 vaccines are strongly recommended in pregnancy as this is the best way to protect against the known risks of COVID-19 in pregnancy for both women and babies, including admission of the woman to intensive care and premature birth of the baby."

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

"We advise pregnant women and everyone wishing to start a family (including those who are undergoing fertility treatment) to have the COVID-19 vaccine."

British Fertility Society

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

❓ 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.

Having your COVID-19 vaccine first, second and booster doses gives you the best protection against the COVID-19 virus.

With thanks to Newham Public Health team

February 2022

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in partnership with

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

ADPH London

✓ Right choice for mum

✓ **Over 275,000 pregnant women** in the USA and UK have **had a COVID vaccine** with **no safety concerns**

✓ **Reduce the chance** of having **severe illness** from **COVID-19 if vaccinated:** 98% of pregnant women in England in hospital with symptomatic COVID-19 are unvaccinated
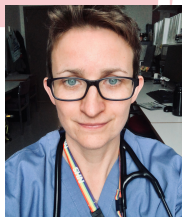
✓ **Pregnant women** who test **positive for COVID-19** are **more likely** to
   - develop **pre-eclampsia**
   - need an **emergency caesarean**

"I was working with an **unvaccinated pregnant** lady **with COVID infection who was on a ventilator** and you could see the fear in her eyes.
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

✓ Right choice for baby

✓ There is **double the risk of stillbirth** and **of preterm birth for pregnant women with COVID-19**

✓ A **vaccinated mum** passes on **her antibodies** which could **give baby an immunity boost against COVID-19**

✓ **There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination** increases the risk of
   - miscarriage
   - preterm birth
   - stillbirth
   - small for age babies
   - or foetal harm

"I encourage you to continue breastfeeding as you cannot pass **COVID-19 vaccine ingredients** on to your baby through your breast milk as it is not a live vaccine."

Memuna Sowe, Clinical Matron and Midwife, Croydon Health services

✓ Right choice for dad

✓ There is **NO evidence** that the **COVID vaccines affect the fertility** of men or women

✓ However, there is evidence that **COVID-19 infection may cause harm** to a man's reproductive system and therefore **affect fertility**

✓ People undergoing **fertility treatment**, or those donating their eggs or sperm, **can have** the **COVID vaccination**

"There is **no evidence the COVID vaccine** affects male or female **fertility**.
Having the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 infection and long-term health complications."

Dr Tehseen Khan, GP and Senior Clinical Advisor to London COVID-19 vaccination programme