

# Covid-19 Vaccination During Pregnancy: What You Need to Know

Thursday, October 28, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Engaging women's health care clinicians  
to increase vaccine confidence and demand  
in their communities.



**Q. Can you please give some more details of the vaccine research that has been conducted for the Covid 19 vaccine specifically for pregnant women? Are there any unusual side effects reported with Pfizer vs Moderna?**

**A.** Since December 2020, hundreds of thousands of pregnant people have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Safety systems including the Vaccine Safety Data Link, Vaccine Averse Event Reporting System, and CDC's v-safe after vaccine health checker have not identified any safety signals in pregnancy. Further, published data from several of these systems as well as independent researchers have not identified any safety signals or adverse pregnancy outcomes, nor has the side effect profile proven to be any different in pregnant people vs. non pregnant people. For more information see:

- [Safety of components and platforms of COVID-19 vaccines considered for use in pregnancy: A rapid review](#)
- [Prenatal maternal COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy outcomes](#)
- [Short-term Reactions Among Pregnant and Lactating Individuals in the First Wave of the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout](#)
- [Spontaneous Abortion Following COVID-19 Vaccination During Pregnancy](#)
- [Receipt of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccines and Risk of Spontaneous Abortion](#)
- [Preliminary Findings of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine Safety in Pregnant Persons](#)
- [V-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry](#)

**Q. Is there a CDC patient facing handout that talks about COVID vaccination in pregnancy? Specifically non-text heavy resources to give patients. And if it could be in various languages, that would be great.**

**A.** ACOG, CDC, and many other partners have a variety of patient-facing resources. Many of these resources are available in a variety of languages.

- [ACOG Patient Education Resources](#)
- [ACOG's COVID-19 Vaccines: Tools for Your Practice and Your Patients](#)
- [CDC Toolkit for Pregnant People and New Parents](#)

**Q. I have several patients who decline vaccination until postpartum despite my recommendation to get vaccinated while pregnant. How should I counsel these patients?**

**A.** The main message for patients is, 'the time is now'. Emerging data shows that women who are vaccinated can pass antibodies in the cord blood to the fetus. We also know that antibodies are passed in breast milk, which may provide some protection. Waiting for a specific time during pregnancy, or after pregnancy, leaves pregnant people at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Therefore, the best time for pregnant people to be vaccinated is now.

**Q. Is there a concern in getting the vaccine in the first trimester? What about concerns about potential fever after vaccination which would affect the pregnancy?**

**A.** Currently ACOG and CDC do not indicate a preference in which trimester pregnant people can or should be vaccinated. Pregnant people who have not received their COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine series should get vaccinated as soon as they are able, regardless of trimester. Pregnant patients who experience fever following vaccination should be counseled to take acetaminophen. For more information see:

- [ACOG Practice Advisory COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric–Gynecologic Care](#)
- [CDC Clinical Considerations: Considerations involving pregnancy, lactation, and fertility](#)

**Q. If a person gets vaccinated does that mean that their fetus is vaccinated and will not require vaccination for COVID 19 in the future?**

**A.** While early data suggest that pregnant individuals who receive the COVID-19 vaccine might pass antibodies to the fetus we do not yet know whether there is adequate antibody passage to protect the newborn from illness. We also don't know how long those antibodies would provide protection if at all. Infants born to mothers who were vaccinated during pregnancy will likely still need to be vaccinated when they are old enough.

**Q. What I hear from women is the fear of the vaccine’s long-term impact on infants. The studies are less than one year out from birth so they are too early to tell. How do I respond to this?**

**A.** Vaccines have been utilized in children and pregnant women for decades. This has been associated with significant advances in preventing serious maternal and childhood disease. While it is true that experience with the current COVID-19 vaccines have been only since December 2020, current safety monitoring with greater than 400 million mRNA vaccines in individuals 12 or older have shown no severe safety signals. Further, mounting data support that these currently available COVID-19 vaccines are safe during pregnancy. Based on decades of using childhood and maternal vaccines with no evidence of long-term effects in millions of people, we have no reason to believe the current COVID-19 vaccines will have any long-term effects. In fact, the prevention of a very serious disease in both children and adults and particularly pregnant people, will help prevent possible long-term effects that have been noted from the COVID-19 disease.

**Q. What are some recommendations for pregnant persons with COVID? How should they protect their health and their child’s?**

**A.** There are a number of great resources which explain recommendations for pregnant persons with COVID. Please see here for more details:

- [CDC Information for Pregnant and Recently Pregnant People](#)
- [ACOG Practice Advisory: Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [ACOG Frequently Asked Questions for Physicians: Obstetrics](#)

**Q. Can you clarify if Johnson & Johnson vaccine is contraindicated in pregnancy.**

**A.** Pregnant or recently pregnant people can receive any FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. Based on available data, experts believe that being pregnant or recently pregnant does not make someone more likely to develop TTS (Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome) after receiving the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. For more information please see here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/janssen-faqs.html>

**Q. If a patient has received only 1 dose of AstraZeneca outside of the US, how would you address this during a current pregnancy?**

**A.** For information regarding individuals vaccinated outside of the United States, please see CDC information: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#people-vaccinated-outside-us>

**Q. How many pregnant women have died from COVID-19 in the USA?**

**A.** According to current CDC data, there have been 206 recorded COVID-19 deaths among pregnant women. We know that nearly all hospitalizations and deaths are occurring in unvaccinated people, including pregnant people, further highlighting the incredible importance of vaccination.