

# Is it safe to have a COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy and lactation?



**Pregnant women are at an increased risk of getting sick from COVID-19 compared to non-pregnant women.<sup>1,2</sup>**



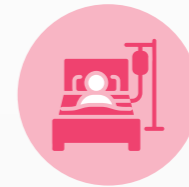
Increased risk of delivering a preterm or stillborn infant.<sup>2</sup>



Increased risk of death.<sup>2</sup>



Complications can affect pregnancy.<sup>2</sup>



Increased risk of hospitalization, ICU admission, or ventilator support.<sup>1,2</sup>

**COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for pregnant women or the women who are trying to get pregnant.<sup>2,3</sup>**



Does not contain a live virus and does not cause COVID-19 infection in the pregnant women or the baby.<sup>2,3</sup>



ACOG recommendation: Pregnant and recently pregnant people up to 6 weeks postpartum can receive a booster dose.<sup>3</sup>



Safe in pregnant women. Early data did not find any safety concerns.<sup>2</sup>



Can be given along with other recommended vaccines such as Flu and Tdap vaccines.<sup>3</sup>



The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are preferred.<sup>2</sup>



Pregnant women experiencing fever can have Acetaminophen.<sup>2</sup>

**The benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy.<sup>2</sup>**



Reduced risk of infection.



Builds antibodies that might protect the baby.



Reduced risk of illness.



Completing two-dose vaccine series protects a baby younger than 6 months from COVID-19 related hospitalization.

**ACOG:** American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

#### References

**1.** Vaccine Confidence: Pregnant and lactating women. Available from: <https://www.unicef.org/romania/stories/vaccine-confidence-pregnant-and-lactating-women>. (Accessed on: 11 May 2022). **2.** COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>. (Accessed on: 11 May 2022). **3.** COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric-Gynecologic Care. Available from: <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care>. (Accessed on: 11 May 2022).

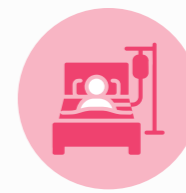
# COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for women who are breastfeeding.<sup>1,2</sup>



The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines preferred.<sup>2</sup>



Safety is similar to other vaccines.<sup>2</sup>



Effective in preventing COVID-19 infection.<sup>2</sup>



COVID-19 antibodies are identified in breast milk. Antibodies can protect the baby.<sup>1</sup>



Does not cause COVID-19 infection in the mother and the baby.<sup>1</sup>



Breastfeeding mothers can get a booster dose after completion of the initial dose.<sup>1</sup>

## Efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant and lactating women – clinical evidence<sup>2</sup>

### Messenger RNA vaccines

95% effective at preventing COVID-19 illness.

### Viral-vector vaccines

66.9% effective at preventing moderate/severe COVID-19 illness and 76.7% effective at preventing severe/critical COVID-19 illness after a single dose.



### A prospective cohort study from two academic centers

- Vaccinated pregnant and lactating women produced comparable immune responses to nonpregnant controls, and generated higher antibody titers
  - Vaccine-generated antibodies were present in umbilical cord blood and breast milk after maternal vaccination
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- **57%** of infants born to women who were vaccinated during pregnancy had detectable antibodies against COVID-19 compared to 8% who were not vaccinated
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- **84%** of babies hospitalized with COVID-19 were born to pregnant people who are not vaccinated
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- COVID-19 vaccination was not associated with preterm birth or delivering an infant small for their gestational age in a study of **40,000 women**

**As established by extensive research, COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant and lactating women is safe and efficacious in providing protection from developing more severe infection and hence should be availed by all expecting and breastfeeding mothers.**

#### References

1. COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>. (Accessed on: 11 May 2022).
2. COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric–Gynecologic Care. Available from: <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care>. (Accessed on: 11 May 2022).