COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding: FAQs
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Should individuals who are pregnant, breastfeeding, and/or wanting to become pregnant get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Pregnant individuals and those up to six weeks after delivery who have COVID-19 are at higher risk of severe disease and pregnancy complications regardless of symptom severity, including:

- Hospitalization, ICU admission, and mechanical ventilation
- Death
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (including preeclampsia and eclampsia)
- Caesarean section
- Preterm birth and subsequent neonatal complications of prematurity
- Stillbirth (risk continues for remainder of the pregnancy) [7,9]

**What are the protective benefits of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy and breastfeeding?**

- Along with masking and physical distancing, getting vaccinated is the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and its complications [3,8].
- The protective antibodies from vaccination in pregnancy pass to your baby, which may keep them safe after birth [5].
- These antibodies are also likely passed in breastmilk with a continued protective benefit to your baby [5,8].

**Should I get my COVID-19 vaccine third dose/booster if I am pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to become pregnant?**

- Yes. Pregnant and breastfeeding individuals mount similar immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines as the general population, including similar waning immunity over time. Booster doses are therefore not only recommended but prioritized, given the elevated risk of severe disease with COVID-19 infection in pregnancy and within six weeks after delivery [2,6,8].
- Data so far suggests that boosters are just as safe, effective, and potentially beneficial to your newborn as the primary series in pregnancy, breastfeeding, and those wanting to become pregnant - regardless of whether you were pregnant or breastfeeding at the time of your previous doses [2].

[19 TO ZERO]
UNITED AGAINST COVID-19
Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe in pregnancy, breastfeeding, or trying to become pregnant?

Yes. Data from many countries, including in over **185,000 individuals vaccinated** just prior to or in pregnancy in the US, support the safety of the vaccine [1].

- There have been **NO adverse maternal, fetal, or neonatal outcomes** - including miscarriage, preterm birth, low birth weight, hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, maternal mortality, stillbirth, or congenital abnormalities - associated with the vaccine in pregnancy. This is true in ANY stage of pregnancy [2,3].
- There have been **NO adverse neonatal outcomes** associated with the vaccine in breastfeeding [2,3,6,8].
- The vaccine itself does not pass to the fetus or newborn during pregnancy or breastfeeding [3].
- There have been **NO adverse fertility effects in men or women** associated with this vaccine [2,3,8].

**The safest and best time to get vaccinated is as soon as possible.**

Is the COVID-19 vaccine as effective in pregnancy and breastfeeding?

Yes. Similar to the general population, the COVID-19 vaccines are very effective in protecting against COVID-19 and severe disease from COVID-19 among pregnant and breastfeeding individuals.

When directly compared to unvaccinated pregnant individuals, multiple studies demonstrate that the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are just as effective in pregnancy as in the general population [4,9].

Additional Resources

- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada COVID-19 Vaccine in Pregnancy
- American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine in Pregnancy Registry

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