

Q: Will the vaccine give me or my baby COVID-19?

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccines because they do not contain live coronavirus. There are no additional ingredients that are harmful to anyone, or babies in the womb in the vaccine.

Q: Can I try for a baby after being vaccinated?

If you are offered the vaccine while trying to conceive, this should not affect your decision about vaccination. There's no need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination.

There is no evidence that the vaccines cause problems with fertility, or that they will cause any problems for people wanting to become pregnant now or in the future

Q: Where can I find more information?

For more information, Public Health England have produced a helpful guide to COVID-19 vaccination for all people of childbearing age. This is available on their website.

The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Royal College of Midwives have also produced a decision aid here to help you decide whether to receive vaccination.

These FAQs are also available online:

www.thedown.com/2021/05/20/pregnancy-and-the-covid-vaccine



COVID-19 immunisation

Protect yourself and your pregnancy



NHS

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Pregnancy and the Covid Vaccine

Pregnant women, especially those in the third trimester, are at great risk from becoming seriously ill with COVID-19, which could cause complications for both mother and baby.

The COVID-19 vaccine is the best protection and is safe and effective for women who are pregnant, planning a pregnancy and breastfeeding. Pregnant women will be offered the vaccine based on their age and clinical risk group which now means anyone who is pregnant aged 16 and over can get the vaccine.

This leaflet contains useful facts from experts in the NHS to help you make an informed decision to get vaccinated.

These frequently asked questions have been answered by Dr Frances Yarlett, an NHS GP and Medical Director of The Lowdown.

These common questions can be used during conversations with patients who have concerns about the vaccine whilst pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding.

Q: I'm pregnant and have been invited to have my COVID-19 vaccine, what are my next steps?

The Covid-19 vaccine is being offered to maternity service users at the same time as everyone else, based on age and clinical risk.

If you have been invited for a COVID-19 vaccination and are pregnant, or think you might be, we encourage you to have a conversation during your appointment with a healthcare professional at a vaccination centre, or speak with your GP practice or maternity service for advice prior to attending.

People who are pregnant are being offered the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines because they've been more widely used during pregnancy in other countries. The National Booking Service ensures pregnant people are seen at a location that can offer the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

Q: Is COVID-19 disease serious in pregnancy?

Although the overall risk from COVID-19 disease in maternity service users and their new babies is low, in later pregnancy some people may become seriously unwell and need hospital treatment.

Evidence is showing that pregnant women and people with COVID-19 have a higher risk of intensive care admission than those of the same age who are not pregnant. People who are pregnant with COVID-19 disease are also 2-3 times more likely to have their babies early than those without COVID-19.

Pregnant people with underlying clinical conditions are at even higher risk of suffering serious complications from COVID-19.

Q: Which vaccines are available to pregnant people?

Pregnant people are being offered the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, because they've been more widely used during pregnancy in other countries.

More than 90,000 pregnant people have been vaccinated in the United States with these vaccines, with no specific concerns raised about safety so far.

None of the vaccines available in England contain live coronavirus, so they cannot infect you or your baby.

There is no evidence so far to suggest that any COVID-19 vaccines used in England are unsafe for pregnant people, and there is no evidence that they will cause any problems for anyone wanting to become pregnant in the future.

Q: I'm pregnant and have already had my first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine. Should I have my second dose?

It is recommended that everyone receive the same vaccine for both doses.

If you have already received a first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine and didn't experience any serious side effects, then you should continue to receive a second dose. Serious side effects from this vaccine are thankfully very rare and even less likely in the second dose.

Q: I'm breastfeeding, can I have the vaccine?

If you are breastfeeding, you can receive any of the COVID-19 vaccines available to your age group. You do not need to stop breastfeeding if you choose to receive a vaccine. None of the vaccines contain virus that can reproduce inside your body or spread to your breastmilk. You should be reassured that by receiving the vaccine, you are protecting yourself while continuing to provide your baby with the benefits of breastfeeding.

