

## **Where to Access Information about Covid Vaccination - for pregnant women**

The latest advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG), The Royal College of Midwives (RCM), and Public Health England (PHE) is that COVID-19 vaccines are now recommended in pregnancy.

Our Maternity team at CHFT support the above recommendations having reviewed the current evidence base and noting the recent increase in the number of hospital admissions of pregnant women who are infected with Covid-19.

We are aware that some misinformation continues to circulate by word of mouth and on social media channels, therefore we must remind you that it's best not to believe everything that you hear or see. Please always consider the source of the information. Can you trust the source? Is the information up to date? Is it opinion, or factual? Can you read the full details? Is it malicious or intended to scare you?

In line with the Nursing and Midwifery Council Code of Practice we will use up to date, evidence-based information and advice to make you aware of the risks of Covid-19 infection in pregnancy and the risks and benefits of Covid-19 vaccination.

**The following information is provided with links below to the original sources so that you can read the evidence for yourself.**

### **Key Messages**

- COVID-19 vaccines are recommended in pregnancy. Vaccination 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.
- The COVID-19 vaccines available in the UK have been shown to be effective and to have a good safety profile. These vaccines do not contain live coronavirus and cannot infect a pregnant woman or her unborn baby in the womb.
- You may wish to discuss the benefits and risks of having the vaccine you're your healthcare professional and reach a joint decision based on individual circumstances. However, as for the non-pregnant population, pregnant women can receive a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have not had a discussion with a healthcare professional.
- You should not stop breastfeeding in order to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Women trying to become pregnant do not need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination. There is no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines will affect fertility.
- Make a note of any questions you have, or if you would like to talk through your personal circumstances you can speak to your midwife or doctor at your next appointment.

**RCOG website** where the impact of new evidence and changes in policy on the published guidance is reviewed on a weekly basis. [Vaccination \(rcog.org.uk\)](https://www.rcog.org.uk)

**FAQ's including -**

Is there any evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause miscarriage or stillbirth?  
Is COVID-19 vaccination safe and effective for pregnant women and their babies?  
<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/coronavirus-covid-19-pregnancy-and-womens-health/covid-19-vaccines-and-pregnancy/covid-19-vaccines-pregnancy-and-breastfeeding/>

The RCOG guide to help you make an informed decision about vaccination  
[Combined info sheet and decision aid 17.08.2021 \(rcog.org.uk\)](https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/coronavirus-covid-19-pregnancy-and-womens-health/covid-19-vaccines-and-pregnancy/covid-19-vaccines-pregnancy-and-breastfeeding/)

**Public Health England** information about Covid vaccination and pregnancy, updated on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 can be read here: [COVID-19 vaccination: women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-or-breastfeeding)

**The Royal College of Midwives** information about Covid-19 in pregnancy and the vaccines [Coronavirus Q&A - RCM](https://www.rcm.ac.uk/coronavirus-q-a)

**The UK Teratology Information Service (UKTIS)** have an up to date fact sheet about Covid-19 vaccination and best use of medicine in pregnancy (BUMPS). [bumps - best use of medicine in pregnancy \(medicinesinpregnancy.org\)](https://www.bumps.org/)

**The Green Book** is the main reference source of evidence based information about infectious diseases and vaccination. [COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a)

**Research evidence COVID-19 Vaccines in Pregnancy**

*“Vaccinated mothers and mothers with previous infection generated and transferred protective IgG antibodies across the placenta. This study provides evidence to support the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy with protection to the neonate against infection, outlining clear vaccine benefits for both maternal and child health.”*

The Israeli study of Pfizer BNT162b2 vaccine in pregnancy: considering maternal and neonatal benefits (Burd, Kino Segars, June 2021)  
<https://www.jci.org/articles/view/150790>

*“Preliminary findings did not show obvious safety signals among pregnant persons who received mRNA Covid-19 vaccines. However, more longitudinal follow-up,*

*including follow-up of large numbers of women vaccinated earlier in pregnancy, is necessary to inform maternal, pregnancy, and infant outcomes.”*

Preliminary Findings of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine Safety in Pregnant Persons (Shimabukuro, Kim, Myers et al June 2021)

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2104983>

### **Research Evidence COVID-19 Infection in pregnancy**

*“SARS-CoV-2 infection at the time of birth is associated with higher rates of fetal death, preterm birth, preeclampsia, and emergency cesarean delivery. There were no additional adverse neonatal outcomes, other than those related to preterm delivery. Pregnant women should be counselled regarding risks of SARS-CoV-2 infection and should be considered a priority for vaccination.”*

Maternal and perinatal outcomes of pregnant women with SARS-CoV-2 infection at the time of birth in England: national cohort study (Gurol-Urganci, Jardine, Carroll et al May 2021)

[https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(21\)00565-2/fulltext](https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(21)00565-2/fulltext)

### **Research evidence COVID-19 Vaccines and Breastfeeding**

*“Demonstrated a release of anti-SARS-CoV-2 S antibodies in the breast milk of women vaccinated with mRNA BNT162b2. Vaccinating breastfeeding women could be a strategy to protect their infants from COVID-19 infection.”*

COVID-19 Vaccine mRNA BNT162b2 Elicits Human Antibody Response in Milk of Breastfeeding Women (Guida, Terracciano, Cennamo et al, July 2021)

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34358201/>

### **Rare adverse reactions following mRNA vaccination**

*“Since April 2021, increased cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported in the United States after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna), particularly in adolescents and young adults...In most cases, patients who presented for medical care have responded well to medications and rest and had prompt improvement of symptoms. Reported cases have occurred predominantly in male adolescents and young adults 16 years of age and older. Onset was typically within several days after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, and cases have occurred more often after the second dose than the first dose.”*

Clinical Considerations: Myocarditis and Pericarditis after Receipt of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among Adolescents and Young Adults

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/myocarditis.html>