

Fact Sheet COVID-19 Vaccination and Pregnancy

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Vaccination protects Pregnant Women

Vaccination reduces your chance of catching COVID-19.

Vaccination greatly reduces your chance of getting very sick if you do catch COVID-19.

The vaccine does not contain live virus and cannot give you COVID-19. It contains no harmful ingredients.

Many thousands of pregnant women overseas have received COVID-19 vaccines and they appear safe for mother and baby (like influenza and whooping cough vaccines).

Also, like influenza and whooping cough vaccines, the antibodies you make after COVID-19 vaccination may pass to the baby and protect it from COVID-19 for the first months of life.

As at August 2021, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines should be offered to pregnant women as they have the most pregnancy safety data. Western Sydney Local Health District give pregnant women Pfizer

You can have a COVID-19 vaccine any time in pregnancy. The vaccine is safe to have if you are soon having your baby or are breastfeeding. To reduce side effects, it's best to have at least a 7-day gap between COVID-19 vaccine and influenza & whooping cough vaccines.



COVID-19 in Pregnancy

Most pregnant women with COVID-19 will have no symptoms or only mild cold / flu symptoms.

However, pregnant women can sometimes get sicker with COVID-19 than other people. They can even need hospital admission to help with breathing. This is more likely if you:

- are aged over 35
- are overweight (BMI over 25),
- have diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma
- are past 28 weeks of pregnancy.

Usually, catching a COVID-19 infection won't affect your pregnancy or baby. However, there may be a small increased chance of stillbirth and preterm birth (baby born before 37 weeks). There seems to be no increase in birth defects.

Mild Vaccine Side Effects

Mild vaccine side effects lasting a day or two are common. They do not affect the pregnancy. They may include:

- Sore arm
- Feeling tired
- Fever, chills,
- Headache, joint pain

Extremely rare blood clotting complications have occurred with the Astra Zeneca vaccine. Pfizer or Moderna vaccines don't have this problem.



COVID-19 Vaccination
Clinic Bookings



COVID-19 Decision
Guide

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Frequently asked questions follow the link attached
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/communities-of-practice/Pages/guide-pregnant-women-and-new-parents.aspx>

For more information see the **RANZCOG ATAGI** Joint Statement about COVID vaccination for pregnant women: <https://bit.ly/3rC71cD>



We welcome further feedback on this factsheet to help us continually improve our service.

Send your feedback to: wslhd-womens-and-newborn-health-website@health.nsw.gov.au

