

→ [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) | Guidance and support

→ [Brexit](#) | Check how the new rules affect you

[Home](#) > [Health and social care](#) > [Public health](#) > [Health protection](#) > [Immunisation](#)
 > [COVID-19 vaccination: women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding](#)



Guidance

COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding

Updated 31 December 2020

Contents

[Many vaccines can be given safely in pregnancy so why are you being advised against this vaccine?](#)

[Breastfeeding](#)

[What this mean for you](#)

[Print this page](#)

The COVID-19 vaccines available in the UK have been shown to be effective and to have a good safety profile. The early COVID-19 vaccines do not contain organisms that can multiply in the body, so they cannot infect an unborn baby in the womb.

Many vaccines can be given safely in pregnancy so why are you being advised against this vaccine?

The vaccines have not yet been tested in pregnancy, so until more information is available, those who are pregnant should not routinely have this vaccine. Non-clinical evidence is required before any clinical studies in pregnancy can start, and before that, it is usual to not recommend routine vaccination during pregnancy.

Evidence from non-clinical studies of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine has been received and reviewed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This evidence was also reviewed by World Health Organisation and the regulatory bodies in the USA, Canada and Europe and has raised no concerns about safety in pregnancy.

Non-clinical studies of the Astra-Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine have raised no concerns.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has recognised that the potential benefits of vaccination are particularly important for some pregnant women. This includes those who are at very high risk of catching the infection or those with clinical conditions that put them at high risk of suffering serious complications from COVID-19.

In these circumstances, you should discuss vaccination with your doctor or nurse, and you may feel that it is better to go ahead and receive the protection from the vaccine.

Breastfeeding

There are no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in breastfeeding or on the breastfed infant. Despite this, COVID-19 vaccines are not thought to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant, and the benefits of breast-feeding are well known. Because of this, the JCVI has recommended that the vaccine can be received whilst breastfeeding. This is in line with recommendations in the USA and from the World Health Organisation.

What this mean for you

Here are the key points you should consider:

- if you are pregnant you should not be vaccinated unless you are at high risk – you can be vaccinated after your pregnancy is over
- if you have had the first dose and then become pregnant you should delay the second dose until after the pregnancy is over (unless you are at high risk)

If you are pregnant but think you are at high risk, you should discuss having or completing vaccination with your doctor or nurse.

Although the vaccine has not been tested in pregnancy, you may decide that the known risks from COVID-19 are so clear that you wish to go ahead with vaccination. There is no advice to avoid pregnancy after COVID-19 vaccination.

If you are breastfeeding, you may decide to wait until you have finished breastfeeding and then have the vaccination.

Is this page useful?

Yes

No

There is something wrong with this page

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support](#)

Brexit

[Check how the new rules affect you](#)

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Services](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

[News and communications](#)

[Research and statistics](#)

[Policy papers and consultations](#)

[Transparency and freedom of information releases](#)

