

# COVID-19 Vaccination

## for Pregnant & Lactating Persons



### ✓ Should pregnant, recently pregnant, or lactating people get vaccinated?

**Yes!** The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) strongly recommends all pregnant, post-partum, and lactating people stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines. Pregnancy makes someone at higher risk of severe complications due to COVID-19. This includes hospitalization, mechanical ventilation, and even death. Vaccination helps prevent severe illness from COVID-19. Additionally, pregnancies affected by COVID-19 are at increased risk for preterm birth and other adverse neonatal outcomes. Vaccination during pregnancy or while breastfeeding has been shown to pass antibodies to the infant, helping protect them until they are old enough to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### ✓ How can OB/GYNs increase maternal vaccination?

Give a strong recommendation for COVID-19 vaccines at every appointment. Administering COVID-19 vaccines at your office significantly increases the likelihood that people will get vaccinated. Enroll as a COVID-19 provider in I-CARE today to help protect your patients from COVID-19.

### ✓ When should the vaccines be given during pregnancy?

If someone is pregnant, they should be vaccinated as soon as possible. COVID-19 vaccines can be given during any trimester, although new evidence suggests that the vaccines given in the third trimester are 80% effective at preventing COVID-19 related hospitalization in infants younger than 6 months. Additionally, COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time as other vaccines.

### ✓ What are the side effects of vaccination?

Pregnant or recently pregnant people experience the same side effects as non-pregnant peoples. This includes injection site pain, fatigue, and fever. Acetaminophen can be taken for fever. There is no evidence that suggests these vaccines cause infertility, stillbirth, or miscarriage.

### ✓ What does the data say?

- A [2022 survey](#) found that while ~83% of health care providers recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant women, only 54.7% actually administered it. Health care providers remain the most trusted source of health and vaccine information for patients.
- A [2023 MMWR study](#) found that maternal vaccination during pregnancy helped prevent COVID-19 related hospitalization by 35% for infants aged <6 months and 54% for infants aged <3 months.
- A [2023 study](#) that showed that COVID-19 antibodies were passed to infants through their mother's breastmilk and provide infants with a layer of protection.