COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

for Pregnant & Lactating Persons

Should pregnant or recently pregnant people get vaccinated?

Yes! Being pregnant or recently pregnant makes you more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19. This means a higher likelihood of intensive care (ICU) admissions, mechanical ventilation to help with breathing, or death. Pregnancies affected by COVID-19 infection are at increased risk for preterm birth and low birth weight. Being vaccinated and keeping up with all recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccines helps prevent severe illness from COVID-19.

Are the vaccines safe?

Yes! COVID-19 vaccines are safe and Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are recommended for pregnant and breastfeeding people. We now have evidence from over 100 studies worldwide that the benefits of COVID vaccination far outweigh the risk. There is no evidence that suggests these vaccines cause infertility, stillbirth, or miscarriage. The virus, however, can cause all of these things.

What are the side effects of vaccination?

Pregnant or recently pregnant people may experience the same side effects as nonpregnant people. This includes injection site pain, fatigue, and fever. Acetaminophen can be taken for fever.

Can I get vaccinated if I am breastfeeding?

Yes! Studies have shown that persons who have received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have antibodies in their breast milk, which could help protect your baby. Children under six months old are not eligible to be vaccinated, so breastfeeding is a way that you may be able to provide some protection to your infant until they can be vaccinated!

When should I get vaccinated?

As soon as possible! COVID-19 vaccines can be given during any trimester, although new evidence suggests that vaccination in the third trimester is more likely to pass protection to the infant. Additionally, COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time as other vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

I-VAC
ILLINOIS VACCINATES AGAINST COVID-19
A project led by the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

For More Information
Visit CDC.gov or ACOG Guidelines

Learn more about I-VAC at **illinoisvaccinates.com**