



DoH

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)



Health and  
Social Care

## A guide to COVID-19 vaccination

# All women of childbearing age, those currently pregnant or breastfeeding

**You must read this before you go for vaccination**

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 the person being vaccinated or an unborn baby in the womb.

### **Many vaccines can be given safely in pregnancy so what is the advice about 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, AstraZeneca

and Moderna vaccines has been received and reviewed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and has raised no concerns about safety in pregnancy. This evidence was also reviewed by World Health Organization and the regulatory bodies in the USA, Canada and Europe and has raised no concerns about safety in pregnancy.



**COVID-19 immunisation**

Protect yourself.

**COVID-19  
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 breastfeeding 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 Organization.

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

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, nurse or midwife, and you may feel that it is better to go ahead and receive the protection from the vaccine.

## What does this mean for me?

If you are pregnant but think you are at high risk:

- you should discuss having or completing vaccination with your doctor, nurse or midwife
- 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.

If you have had the first dose and then become pregnant:

- you should discuss having the second dose with your doctor, nurse or midwife.

- you may choose to have the second dose or delay it until after your baby is born.

There is no need to avoid pregnancy after COVID-19 vaccination.

**Vaccination, helping to protect those most vulnerable.**



**Public Health Agency**  
12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS.  
Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate).  
[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)

Find us on:

