

Talking to women about the COVID-19 vaccine

Starting the conversation:

It's your decision to get vaccinated. My role as your midwife is to share the latest advice and guidance from the NHS and experts to help you make this decision



The recommendation:

The virus is spreading widely among pregnant women, with more and more women being admitted to hospital with severe COVID-19 symptoms. That's why the Royal College of Midwives, the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists and the JCVI (Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) now recommend that all pregnant women are vaccinated.

The reasons why:

- The vaccine is the best way to reduce the risk of you getting COVID-19 and being seriously unwell with it.
- Pregnant women are at greater risk of becoming severely unwell with COVID-19, especially in the later stages of pregnancy – none of the pregnant women admitted to hospital with severe COVID-19 had been fully vaccinated.
- Around 200,000 pregnant women have now been vaccinated in the USA and UK, with no adverse effects on the woman, pregnancy or baby.
- If you contract COVID-19 in pregnancy you are three times more likely to have a preterm baby and there is a higher risk of having a stillbirth.
- You cannot get COVID-19 from vaccination.
- COVID-19 vaccinations do not contain live coronavirus or any other ingredients that are harmful to pregnant women or their babies.
- Other non-live vaccines like whooping cough and flu have been recommended and given safely to pregnant women for many years.

Is it safe for my baby?

The vaccines do not pass virus across the placenta to the baby. They help you develop antibodies to the virus so you're less likely to become unwell if you get COVID. Antibodies pass through the placenta, so it's likely that your baby will have greater protection against the virus when they are born.

Is it safe for me?

Around 200,000 pregnant women have now been vaccinated in the USA and UK, with no adverse effects on the woman, pregnancy or baby.

Can I wait until after the baby's born?

More and more pregnant women being admitted to hospital with severe COVID-19 symptoms. None of them have had both doses of the vaccine. Your chances of being severely ill with COVID in the late stages of pregnancy are much higher, your risk of stillbirth doubles and the risk of having a preterm baby trebles. It really is best for you and your baby to get vaccinated now.

