

VACCINATIONS FOR ALL

COVID-19 Vaccines for People Who Are or Were Recently Pregnant, Breastfeeding or Planning to Become Pregnant

Frequently Asked Questions

You and your baby's health and safety are our priority. People who are pregnant or were recently pregnant are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to prevent severe illness and protect yourself, your baby, and your family from COVID-19.

Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Pregnant or breastfeeding people are at higher risk for becoming very sick with COVID-19. They may have trouble breathing or chest pain that requires hospital or intensive care. Being 35 years or older or overweight, and having high blood pressure or diabetes, can increase the risk of becoming very sick during or right after pregnancy. Getting vaccinated helps your immune system protect you, your baby and your family.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. Research shows COVID-19 vaccines are safe for use during pregnancy and not harmful to the pregnant person or the fetus. In fact, there are other vaccines that people receive during pregnancy, including the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) and flu vaccines. The vaccines are safe and effective in preventing illness.

Is the vaccine safe for my family?

Yes. It is important for anyone around your baby to be fully vaccinated. Your baby has a new immune system and is vulnerable to COVID-19. Making sure your loved ones are vaccinated helps protect your baby's health and reduces the chance of infection.

Is it safe to breastfeed my baby after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Vaccinated people who are breastfeeding develop antibodies that protect against COVID-19.

The antibodies, after getting the vaccine, are in your breastmilk. Your breastfed baby will get these antibodies and have some protection from COVID-19.

How will I feel after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

You may have side effects such as nausea, fever, fatigue, and muscle aches. These side effects are normal and should go away in a few days. Medicine can help with some side effects. Ask your provider which medicine is best for you. If you have had an allergic reaction to a vaccine in the past, speak with your provider before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Will these side effects harm me or my baby?

No. Having side effects after the vaccine means your body is building protection against COVID-19. Side effects from the vaccine are common, usually mild, and will not harm your baby.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine cause me to have a miscarriage?

No. Studies show the COVID-19 vaccine is safe to take during pregnancy. People who get the vaccine do not have a higher risk of miscarriage than those who don't get the vaccine.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine cause birth defects?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine cannot change the DNA of you or your baby. There are no reports of birth defects among the thousands of women who received the COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine affect my fertility?

No. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine affects fertility or causes fertility problems in women or men.

Will the antibodies that I develop after getting the COVID-19 vaccine affect my fertility?

No. The antibodies will fight off the virus that causes COVID-19. These antibodies will not affect your reproductive organs or fertility.

What will happen if I am not vaccinated and get COVID-19 while pregnant or when giving birth?

Pregnant people who don't get the COVID-19 vaccine are at higher risk of miscarriage, premature birth, preeclampsia and stillbirth. There is also a higher risk of needing care in a hospital intensive care unit, needing a ventilator for breathing support, and dying from severe illness.