

Information for clinicians on COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility

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This document is designed to provide general information for clinicians about the SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus) vaccines for pregnant women, women wanting to conceive, undergoing fertility treatment or breastfeeding. The information is general in nature and should be read in conjunction with the resources listed below. The information is current as of 26 July 2021. Printed copies are uncontrolled.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe for pregnant women?

Pregnant women [are now categorized as Phase 1b in the National Vaccine Rollout and are therefore eligible](#) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty). This is based on substantial evidence that:

- pregnant women who contract COVID-19 have a higher risk of severe illness compared to non-pregnant women of the same age
- there is a higher risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes as a result of contracting COVID-19, and infants born to women who contract COVID-19 during pregnancy have a higher risk of adverse outcomes
- trials in the US have found that mRNA vaccines (e.g. Pfizer or Moderna) appear to be safe in pregnancy.

Pregnant women should be routinely offered Pfizer COVID-19 (Cominarty) vaccine at any stage of pregnancy. This position is supported by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) who released a statement on 23 July 2021.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe for lactating women?

If you are breastfeeding, you can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at any time. You do not need to stop breastfeeding before or after vaccination. Nearly all vaccines are considered safe for use in lactating women and the advice of Australian and international bodies is that it is safe to be vaccinated whilst lactating.

Planning a pregnancy and fertility

Both ATAGI and RANZCOG advise that women who are trying to become pregnant do not need to delay vaccination or avoid becoming pregnant after vaccination.

Making a decision on vaccination

Women are encouraged to discuss their individual circumstances with their doctor or midwife to help make an informed decision in relation to vaccination.

Please note: influenza and pertussis vaccinations continue to be recommended during pregnancy. These vaccines can be administered in addition to Pfizer mRNA vaccine (Cominarty) by following the [recommended dosing schedule](#).

For further information visit the [information for healthcare workers website](#) or the [Queensland Health website](#).

Taking care of your mental health and wellbeing

If you are a pregnant or lactating healthcare worker, COVID-19 may affect your mental wellbeing and place added stress on relationships and at work. During pregnancy, most women experience a range of emotions. It's normal to feel some worry during pregnancy and when having a baby. If you feel worrying thoughts are becoming a regular part of life, it can help to talk about any concerns with your doctor, midwife, partner or a close friend. It is important to [take care of](#)

[yourself](#) and share any concerns. Remember, the COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory. Talking through your options, the potential risks and benefits, may help in making an informed decision about whether to vaccinate.

Recommended reading

[ATAGI - COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning pregnancy](#)

[RANZCOG: Covid-19 Vaccination in Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women](#)

[CDC Vaccination Consideration for People who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)

[TGA product information - Pfizer](#)