

INTERIM* CONSIDERATIONS FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR PREGNANT OR LACTATING WOMEN – 15 DECEMBER 2020

Evidence suggests that pregnant women may have an increased risk for severe COVID-19-related illness and death compared to non-pregnant women. This highlights the importance of preventing disease in this population, including getting vaccinations.

- The current data on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant or breastfeeding women is insufficient, which makes it difficult to provide vaccine recommendations.
- The first vaccines available do not contain a live virus. Instead, they produce an immune response by using genetic material that breaks down quickly in the human body. Therefore, you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine itself.
- There is only a small chance currently available vaccines cross the placenta, and so the theoretical risk of fetal harm from the COVID-19 vaccine is considered to be low.
- Based on the way the current vaccines work, risk to the breastfeeding child is unlikely, and the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risk. You do not have to delay or stop breastfeeding if you receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine currently recommend that **eligible pregnant and lactating women should be offered the vaccine**. Pregnant women are encouraged to speak with their health care providers and make an informed decision about whether to receive the vaccine.

For more information, please visit these websites:

<https://www.acog.org/en/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/vaccinating-Pregnant-and-Lactating-Patients-Against-COVID-19>

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.sfm.org/media/2591/SMFM_Vaccine_Statement_12-1-20_\(final\).pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.sfm.org/media/2591/SMFM_Vaccine_Statement_12-1-20_(final).pdf)

[COVID Vaccine Advice if You Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)

[Provider Considerations for Engaging in COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling with Pregnant and Lactating Patients](#)

**Updates to these considerations will be provided, when available and appropriate.*