

## If I'm pregnant or of child-bearing age, is it safe for me to get the vaccine?

Pregnant and breastfeeding women have been excluded from the leading vaccine clinical trials so far, including those from Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen, AstraZeneca and Novavax.

This is not unusual as vaccine clinical trials typically don't enroll participants who are pregnant or lactating until the vaccine has been shown to be safely tolerated in people who are not pregnant.

There are current studies on the COVID vaccine in which pregnant women are part of the study pool. We should have that data in the coming year.

Many experts believe that while no COVID-19 vaccines have been tested on pregnant women, the virus itself may pose greater risks both to the pregnant woman and to the fetus. Pregnant women should talk with their doctor to weigh the risk and benefit of the vaccine versus [COVID-19 infection](#).

## Does the vaccine have any effect on fertility?

There is an internet rumor that the vaccine could affect fertility. **There is no evidence or scientific concern that the vaccine could impact fertility.**

The vaccine mimics infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. It targets a single protein of the virus, called the spike protein. The vaccine does not contain live virus.

Research studies have shown that getting COVID-19 (not the vaccine) may affect fertility. In short, the virus itself may pose a greater risk to fertility than the vaccine.

## If I'm breastfeeding, can I still get the vaccine?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices states that breastfeeding women may receive the vaccine.

It is not known if the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is passed through breast milk. Even if the mRNA is in the breast milk, there is no known harm to feeding an infant.

It is also important to remember that live viral vaccines — measles, mumps and rubella vaccine — are routinely given to lactating women. But keep in mind that the COVID vaccine does not contain any live virus.

<https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/coronavirus-covid-19-pregnancy-and-breastfeeding>

<https://www.henryford.com/blog/2021/01/pregnancy-and-covid-vaccine>