

Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine while I'm pregnant?

Pregnant women have a higher risk of more severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) than nonpregnant women. Getting vaccinated may protect you from severe illness. Vaccination also may help protect your fetus.

ACOG recommends that all pregnant women be vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are pregnant and want to know more about the vaccines, talk with your obstetrician–gynecologist (ob-gyn). This conversation is not required to get a vaccine, but it may be helpful.

Risks of COVID-19 infection

It's important to talk about your risk of getting COVID-19 and how the infection can affect your pregnancy. People who work in certain jobs, such as health care, may be at higher risk of getting COVID-19. Certain health conditions, such as diabetes mellitus or high blood pressure, also may increase your risk.

Pregnant women who get sick with COVID-19 are more likely than nonpregnant women to...



need care in an intensive care unit (ICU)



need a ventilator for breathing support



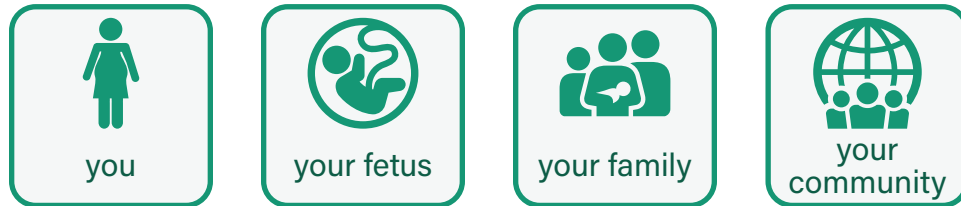
die from the illness

You and your ob-gyn should talk about your risk of severe illness if you get sick.

Benefits to getting vaccinated

The COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are up to 95 percent effective in protecting against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

Getting vaccinated during pregnancy may help protect...



Safety and fertility facts



The vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. The vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19.



COVID-19 vaccines are safe to get during pregnancy. Scientists have compared the pregnancies of women who have received COVID-19 vaccines and women who have not. The reports show that these women have had similar pregnancy outcomes. Data do not show any safety concerns.



After you get vaccinated, the antibodies made by your body may be passed through breastmilk and may help protect your baby from the virus. ACOG recommends that breastfeeding women be vaccinated against COVID-19.



There is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility. ACOG recommends vaccination for anyone who may consider getting pregnant in the future.

How will I feel after getting the vaccine?

It is common to feel discomfort after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Remember:



If you have a fever or other discomfort after getting a shot, you can take acetaminophen.
This over-the-counter medication is safe during pregnancy.



If your discomfort lasts more than a couple of days or if you have questions, talk with your ob-gyn.

If you have had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine in the past, talk with your ob-gyn before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Other things to consider

- Some COVID-19 vaccines require two shots to be fully effective. When you get your first shot, you should ask when you need to return for your second shot.
- You may choose to keep wearing a mask even when fully vaccinated. Masks are most important for people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. All fully vaccinated people should still wear masks when recommended by the CDC, your state or local government, and businesses or workplaces.



You are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the second dose of a two-dose vaccine, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

More information

- Other questions about COVID-19, pregnancy, and breastfeeding: <https://www.acog.org/COVID-Pregnancy>
- More vaccine considerations for people who are pregnant and breastfeeding: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>
- Other COVID-19 vaccine questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines>

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