



Pregnancy, Fertility and COVID-19 Vaccination

Tuesday 24th August, 2021

A webinar and live Q&A covering fertility and pregnancy
for healthcare professionals



This session will be recorded

PREGNANCY, FERTILITY and COVID-19 VACCINATION

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Dr Andrew Parson

GP clinical lead Bromley & lead for the
Professional Advisory Group South East London



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Housekeeping

- Please make sure your mic is muted if you are not speaking
- Turn off your camera when you are not speaking
- There will be an opportunity to ask questions once we hear from our speakers
- Use the chat box freely to post questions – we will pick these up in the Q&A



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About the COVID-19 vaccine

- COVID-19 vaccines have been given to large numbers of people in clinical trials to ensure they meet stringent standards of effectiveness and safety
- COVID-19 vaccines are recommended in pregnancy
- The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine offers a high level of protection, but to get maximum and longer-lasting protection, the second jab is vital
- **Data involving more than 200,000 pregnant women has not raised any safety concerns**
- Pregnant women should be offered the Pfizer BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, as all of the safety monitoring data from the United States relates to these two vaccines

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Jacqui Kempen

Midwife and Local Maternity System Programme
Lead, South East London



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Linda Machakaire

Head of Midwifery at Lewisham and co-chair of
Local Maternity System, South East London



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COVID-19 and pregnancy

- About two-thirds of women who test positive for COVID-19 in pregnancy have no symptoms at all
- **One in 10 pregnant women admitted to hospital with COVID-19 require intensive care**
- In the later stages of pregnancy women are at **increased risk of becoming seriously unwell with COVID-19**
- If you have COVID-19 in pregnancy, you are twice as likely to have a stillbirth, and it is twice as likely that your baby will be born prematurely
- Pregnant women with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk of severe illness

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Dr Ogechukwu Ilozue

GP Trainer, Partner and Clinical Advisor to the
London COVID-19 programme,
North Central London



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Dr Gurjinder Sandhu

Consultant Infectious Diseases and General
Medicine

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



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Benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine

- Vaccination is the best way to protect against the known risks of COVID-19 in pregnancy for both women and babies
- Vaccination is effective in preventing COVID-19 infection
- You cannot get COVID-19 from vaccination - COVID-19 vaccines do NOT contain live coronavirus
- Vaccines do NOT contain any additional ingredients that are harmful to pregnant women or their babies
- The vaccine **is considered to be safe and effective at any stage** of pregnancy
- Other non-live vaccines (whooping cough, influenza) are safe for pregnant women and their unborn babies

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Dr Pooja Dassan

Obstetric Neurologist
Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital



Risks of COVID-19 vaccinations

- The COVID-19 vaccines have not yet been tested specifically in pregnant women – although data is increasing continuously
- Side effects from the vaccine are common; these do not affect pregnancy and may include:
 - injection site reactions (sore arm)
 - fatigue headache
 - muscle pain
 - chills/fever
 - joint ache

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- The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has responded to a [recent Covid and pregnancy survey](#) by the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) which sheds light on the association between COVID-19 and pregnancy outcomes. The details of the study and finding can be found on the [RCOG site here](#). BBC coverage of the study can also be [viewed here](#)



- Videos about COVID-19 vaccines and fertility, pregnancy, breastfeeding and the menstrual cycle from - **Dr Viki Male from Imperial College London.**

<https://www.immunology.org/coronavirus/connect-coronavirus-public-engagement-resources/covid-vaccine-fertility-pregnancy>

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Question & Answer

Raise your hand to speak OR Post your question in the chat box

Can I choose which vaccine I have?

What do I do if I feel unwell after having the COVID-19 vaccine?

When is the best time for me to have my vaccine while pregnant?

I have had Covid so, as I have antibodies, do I still need the vaccine?

Some people have been troubled about social media posts making disturbing claims about the vaccine including its links to abortions.

Is the vaccine safe for pregnant women and does it affect fertility?

How many women have had the vaccine already and got pregnant?

My first dose was Astra Zeneca, should I have the same for my second dose?

Please share your feedback via this quick doopoll link!

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/164cebba/GSbfSGJrpkWRKqk9RdzsjA?u=ht>
<tp://doo.vote/f9e6be4>

Information and resources

Pregnancy, breastfeeding, fertility and coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Book your vaccination here: [can book their COVID-19 vaccinations online.](#)

Link to South East London CCGs website, including FAQs [COVID-19 vaccine - South East London CCG \(selondonccg.nhs.uk\)](#)

For the latest advice for review and to share with women, please see [PHE guidance for women of childbearing age](#), (updated 19th May) and the [RCOG Decision Aid](#).

Link to Public Health England Pregnancy leaflet: [COVID-19 vaccination: women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) – Available to download in 24 languages

