

## Pregnancy, Fertility and Breastfeeding and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

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### Breastfeeding

**1. How long can I take the vaccine after delivery?**

As soon as you would like after having the baby, there is no need to wait, and having the vaccine does not affect you being able to breastfeed your baby.

### Fertility

**1. How does the COVID-19 Vaccination affect fertility?**

There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility, and no mechanism by which the vaccine could affect fertility. [https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19-Vaccines-FAQ-1\\_3.pdf](https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19-Vaccines-FAQ-1_3.pdf)

**2. What research, if any, has been completed regarding the vaccine and fertility or ability to conceive, for both male and female? How can we be sure that there is no future impact on future ability to conceive?**

There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility and no mechanism by which the vaccine could affect fertility. Further information can be found at [https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19-Vaccines-FAQ-1\\_3.pdf](https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19-Vaccines-FAQ-1_3.pdf)

**3. I am trying to become pregnant. Is it good for me to have the vaccine while I am trying to have a baby. Is there any effect on that?**

There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility, and no mechanism by which the vaccine could affect fertility. [https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19-Vaccines-FAQ-1\\_3.pdf](https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19-Vaccines-FAQ-1_3.pdf)

**4. I am trying for a baby. Is it good for me to have the COVID-19 vaccination? Are there any effects?**

Yes, all adults can protect themselves by having the COVID-19 vaccine including women planning pregnancy. There is no concern that the vaccine will affect fertility.

### Early Pregnancy

- 1. Is more dangerous for the baby if I get my vaccine in the first trimester as opposed to the second trimester? I have actually taken Pfizer in week 12 & 16 and I am now scared to have done a mistake in taking the first jab in week 12.**  
You can have the vaccine at any time in pregnancy.

- 2. I had the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine in March 2021. I then fell pregnant in May 2021 (through IVF). I was due to have my second jab in June 2021 but I chose not to as AstraZeneca has not been approved in pregnancy. I don't know what to do. I want to have the vaccine to protect myself, my family and my baby – but I am concerned it hasn't been approved for pregnancy. I had pre-eclampsia and high blood pressure in my first pregnancy but no side effects after my AstraZeneca jab.**

If your first vaccine was AstraZeneca, then your second vaccine will also need to be AstraZeneca. We are not worried about AstraZeneca vaccine in pregnancy, there is just more data on Pfizer/Moderna. Women with underlying conditions who were vaccinated with AstraZeneca in pregnancy in the early stages of the programme did not have any problems with the vaccine.

## Pregnancy

- 1. Do you have any statistics on vaccinated pregnant people who have had their babies? Have there been any side effects on the babies showing up so far?**

120,000 pregnancies are reported. Published data in journals lags behind this with 724 babies reported. No side effects have been reported.

- 2. If I have only had my first dose of Moderna, how protected am I currently? Should I self-isolate until I am fully vaccinated. I am currently in my third trimester.**

A single dose offers some protection and two doses offer better protection. Social distancing is particularly important for all pregnant women who are 28 weeks and beyond, in order to lessen their risk of contracting the virus. For women with other medical conditions in addition to pregnancy, this should be considered on an individual basis.

- 3. I am 7 months pregnant so is it too late to become fully vaccinated before the baby comes if I am supposed to wait 8 weeks between jabs?**

No. Please have the vaccine to protect you and your baby.

- 4. What would you recommend for pregnant women who had an allergic reaction to AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination, when it was taken as the first dose pre-pregnancy? I have not yet had second dose. I got a severe all over rash for 3 days but have been advised by GP to have second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination.**

Unfortunately, as this is a severe rash, it is worth discussing this with your GP so this can be assessed. We would not suggest going for second dose until a clinical assessment has been completed. The GP can then make an assessment or seek further advice if required.

## Post-natal

- 1. Can post-natal women on clexane prophylactic have the vaccine in postnatal period?**

Yes.

- 2. Could there be any mechanism for damage to brain development from the vaccine?**

No, there is no evidence that the vaccine affects brain development.

- 3. Could there be long-term effects on health from the vaccine for a baby? Could there be potential problems that show up when the baby is 2-3 years old, including Autism and growth problems?**

The most important long-term health effects in babies usually relate to preterm delivery. COVID-19 infection in late pregnancy carries an increased risk of preterm delivery and we would like to protect women and their babies from this risk.

- 4. I am due to deliver by Caesarean section next week, and not yet had my first vaccine. I was now planning to wait until post-delivery as I'm so close. I will have the vaccine ASAP post-delivery. I think I am going to be on blood thinners. Can I have any vaccine?**

You can have the vaccine before delivery and when using blood thinners. If you are not pregnant and under 40, you will still be offered the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

### Questions about the COVID-19 vaccination

- 1. I heard something about the vaccine collecting in the bone marrow several days after vaccination. Apparently some Japanese data. I think it is rubbish but could this be a danger down the line, i.e. leukemia risk? As I say, I do not think it is accurate but would appreciate your views.**

The vaccine is meant to induce an immune response. Some of this response comes from the bone marrow. Patients with Leukaemia and blood cancer are known to be vulnerable and were prioritised for the vaccine when it was first given out.

- 2. How long should you leave between vaccine 1 and 2?**

At least 8 weeks must be allowed between the date of the first dose and the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.

- 3. I had COVID-19 in March 2020 and I was really unwell for 2 weeks. As part of the (vaccination) trial. I had a positive antibody test in June 2020 and October 2020. I got pregnant in February 2021. Part of me wants to have the vaccine but I am worried about the long-term effect. Because I had COVID-19 before and I was okay. Should I be putting this unknown risk or effect to me and the baby?**

The Coronavirus infection may offer some immunity but we do not know how much and how long it will last. People who have been infected with the Coronavirus previously are therefore offered two doses of the vaccine. We would recommend that you have both doses of the vaccine to protect you and your baby in pregnancy.

- 4. How supportive have your Maternity Voices Partnerships (MVPs) been in sharing information to help inform and signpost to accurate information for local women – particularly those women who are from more hidden communities and usually harder to reach?**

The MVPs disseminate any information given by the clinicians through social media and their networking groups. We also have a virtual North East London Women's Experience Forum, run jointly with our MVP's where vaccination is discussed and questions answered. This takes place on the last Wednesday of each month between 11:00 – 12:00 and further details can be found by joining our Facebook Community group, North [East London Local Maternity System](#).

If you have a different question or wish to seek advice about taking the vaccination during pregnancy or if you are trying to become pregnant, please continue to seek advice from your midwife or you can email [elhcp.maternity@nhs.net](mailto:elhcp.maternity@nhs.net)