



## 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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