



Joint Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination During Pregnancy and/or Lactation

We strongly recommend that all pregnant and lactating persons receive a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine regardless of trimester. There is now an abundance of safety data showing no increased pregnancy-related risks for those vaccinated during pregnancy. We also have a clear understanding that the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is much higher during pregnancy—independent of other risk factors. We do NOT recommend delaying vaccination until after pregnancy or during preconception as this represents a clear increase in risk for long-term and severe health consequences and pregnancy complications due to COVID-19.

We further recommend use of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibody treatment for pregnant people based on the FDA emergency use authorization guidelines which includes pregnancy as a risk factor for progression to severe COVID-19 disease.

We invite you to utilize the resources provided to counsel pregnant persons about vaccination. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to us for additional resources. We appreciate your efforts in countering misinformation with evidence and helping protect pregnant and breastfeeding people.

Literature and Guideline Summary:

Pregnant individuals with COVID-19 infection have a higher risk of a critical course of illness and require more hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and invasive ventilation including ECMO [1,2]. Pregnant patients are also less likely to have symptoms such as fever, body aches or shortness of breath [2]. Patients who have severe illness due to COVID-19 have increased risk of cesarean section, preterm birth, hypertension, and blood clots [3]. Studies also show increased risk of death associated with COVID-19 infection in pregnancy compared to non-pregnant status [6]. There also appears to be an increased infection rate in pregnant patients, almost 70% more than similarly aged adults [4]. Age, preexisting Diabetes Mellitus, chronic hypertension, obesity, and chronic lung disease seem to increase risk for severe disease [5]. Vertical transmission resulting in congenital COVID-19 infection in newborns is rare but has been reported [7].

COVID-19 vaccines have been available from December 2020 and have shown a significant decrease in infections, symptoms, hospitalizations, and deaths [8,9]. On August 23, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first COVID-19 vaccine, Comirnaty, for adults 16 and older [15]. None of the vaccines currently authorized in the United States contain virus that replicates, and hence they do not cause disease. COVID-19 antibodies have been found in umbilical cord blood and

breast milk, thereby providing some level of protection to the fetus/infant [13,17]. Studies have shown that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe in pregnant and lactating people and has no increased adverse effects [14].

On July 30,2021, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) issued a [statement](#) recommending that all pregnant individuals be vaccinated against COVID-19. Currently, the statement is endorsed by more than 20 leading national organizations representing experts in perinatal and public health, including the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also made an unequivocal [recommendation](#) in favor of perinatal vaccination. These organizations' recommendations in support of vaccination during pregnancy reflect evidence demonstrating the safe use of the COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy from tens of thousands of reporting individuals over the last several months, as well as the current low vaccination rates and concerning increase in cases. The CDC and numerous national organizations emphasize concerns about significant increases in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant and the regional low rates of vaccination in states across the country. Recent data have shown that more than 95% of those who are hospitalized and/or dying from COVID-19 are those who have remained unvaccinated. Pregnant individuals who have decided to wait until after delivery to be vaccinated may be inadvertently exposing themselves to an increased risk of severe illness or death. Those who have recently delivered and were not vaccinated during pregnancy are also strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible [16].

Additional Resources:

[NMDOH](#)

[CDC](#)

[SMFM](#)

[AWHONN](#)

[ACOG](#)

[AAP](#)

[MotherToBaby](#)

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