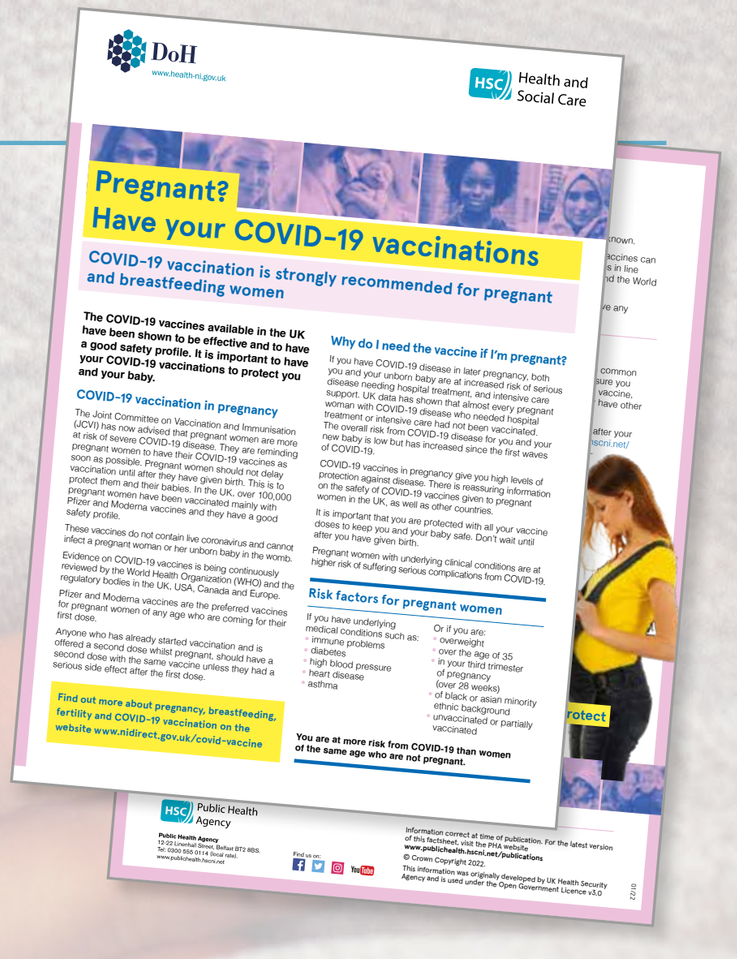
COVID-19 vaccine

Pregnant or breastfeeding?

The COVID-19 vaccine is the safest and most effective way to help protect you and your baby against the virus.

Speak to your doctor or midwife if you have any questions.

Visit: www.pha.site/COVID19infomaterials



DoH
www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSC Health and Social Care

Pregnant? Have your COVID-19 vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended for pregnant and breastfeeding women

The COVID-19 vaccines available in the UK have been shown to be effective and to have a good safety profile. It is important to have your COVID-19 vaccinations to protect you and your baby.

COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has now advised that pregnant women are more at risk of severe COVID-19 disease. They are reminding pregnant women to have their COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible. Pregnant women should not delay vaccination until after they have given birth. This is to protect them and their babies. In the UK, over 100,000 pregnant women have been vaccinated mainly with Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and they have a good safety profile.

These vaccines do not contain live coronavirus and cannot infect a pregnant woman or her unborn baby in the womb.

Evidence on COVID-19 vaccines is being continuously reviewed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the regulatory bodies in the UK, USA, Canada and Europe.

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the preferred vaccines for pregnant women of any age who are coming for their first dose.

Anyone who has already started vaccination and is offered a second dose whilst pregnant, should have a second dose with the same vaccine unless they had a serious side effect after the first dose.

Find out more about pregnancy, breastfeeding, fertility and COVID-19 vaccination on the website www.nidirect.gov.uk/covid-vaccine

Why do I need the vaccine if I'm pregnant?

If you have COVID-19 disease in later pregnancy, both you and your unborn baby are at increased risk of serious disease needing hospital treatment, and intensive care support. UK data has shown that almost every pregnant woman with COVID-19 disease who needed hospital treatment or intensive care had not been vaccinated. The overall risk from COVID-19 disease for you and your new baby is low but has increased since the first waves of COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy give you high levels of protection against disease. There is reassuring information on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines given to pregnant women in the UK, as well as other countries.

It is important that you are protected with all your vaccine doses to keep you and your baby safe. Don't wait until after you have given birth.

Pregnant women with underlying clinical conditions are at higher risk of suffering serious complications from COVID-19.

Risk factors for pregnant women

If you have underlying medical conditions such as:
- immune problems
- diabetes
- high blood pressure
- heart disease
- asthma

Or if you are:
- overweight
- over the age of 35
- in your third trimester of pregnancy (over 28 weeks)
- of black or asian minority ethnic background
- unvaccinated or partially vaccinated

You are at more risk from COVID-19 than women of the same age who are not pregnant.

HSC Public Health Agency

Public Health Agency
12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS.
Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate).
www.publichealth.hscni.net

Find us on:

Information correct at time of publication. For the latest version of this factsheet, visit the PHA website
www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications

© Crown Copyright 2022.
This information was originally developed by UK Health Security Agency and is used under the Open Government Licence v3.0

01/22

DoH
www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSC Public Health Agency

Produced by the Public Health Agency | www.publichealth.hscni.net

01/22