



PRIMARY CARE  
WOMEN'S HEALTH FORUM

# COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy

This resource has been compiled by Dr Amy Tatham to help support pregnant women when making their decisions about COVID-19 vaccination. It lists the latest evidence and links to national guidance in an easy-to-use resource.

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Prepared on behalf of the Primary Care Women's Health Forum. Remember that this is guidance and to make decisions on a case-by-case basis using your clinical judgement.

# COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy

<b>FAST FACTS</b>	2/3 of infections in pregnant women are asymptomatic	1/300 COVID-positive pregnant women need hospitalisation	Slight increased risk of complications in 3rd trimester and premature delivery	Increased risk of complications in those with a background risk (underlying medical conditions, raised BMI, ethnicity).
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## Key points

- The JCVI states that currently the only pregnant women eligible for vaccination are health and social care workers and pregnant women with high-risk medical conditions.
- The JCVI advises that pregnant women could seek a risk/benefit discussion with their GP.
- There is very little safety data around vaccinating in pregnancy but it is a non-live vaccine (like the flu vaccine). There is no risk of getting the infection from the vaccine and there is no evidence of harm from the vaccine.
- No negative impact known on pregnancy or breast feeding.
- No negative impact on fertility.
- No pregnancy test is required prior to vaccination.

The RCOG website has an excellent page all about COVID-19 and pregnancy and vaccination. There is also a fabulous patient info leaflet on the RCOG site which talks the pregnant patient through the risks and benefits of vaccination. There is a decision tool on page 5 which is really useful for our consultations and will aid an individualised approach.

## Recent information regarding the AstraZeneca (AZ) injection and pregnancy

- It is important to remember that the risk of thrombosis following the AZ injection remains very low; the benefits of the AZ COVID-19 vaccine continue to outweigh the risks for the 'vast majority' of people.
- Recent advice from the MHRA states that pregnancy predisposes to thrombosis, therefore women should discuss with their healthcare professional whether the benefits of having the vaccine outweigh the risks for them.
- The JCVI has recommended that under-30s in phase 1 of the vaccination programme, who have yet to receive their vaccine, should receive an alternative type of vaccine if one is available.
- The JCVI is still reviewing whether the AZ vaccine should be offered to under-30s in phase 2 of the vaccination rollout, which includes healthy adults aged under 49 and has yet to begin.
- If pregnant women have received their first AZ vaccine and have had no complications, it is advised to continue with the second dose as planned.



For more resources visit: [www.pcwhf.co.uk](http://www.pcwhf.co.uk). Prepared in April 2021.