

# PREGNANCY & COVID-19 VACCINES

Pregnant and recently Pregnant Persons are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you are pregnant, you *should* receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy can protect you from severe illness from COVID-19. Speak with your doctor if you have concerns.

*The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends pregnant women get a vaccine.*

Recent reports have shown that people who have received COVID-19 mRNA vaccines during pregnancy (mostly during their third trimester) have passed antibodies to their babies, which could help protect them after birth. <sup>(i)</sup>



## HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Pregnant women are more vulnerable to illness. Contracting COVID-19 during pregnancy increases risk of severe illness, complications and death compared to non-pregnant women.
- Many Black women suffer from pre-existing medical conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and asthma, which further increases risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.
- Pregnant persons with COVID-19 are at increased risk of preterm birth and might be at increased risk of other adverse pregnancy outcomes compared with pregnant women without COVID-19.
- Experts believe COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk for people who are pregnant. Preliminary studies do not indicate any adverse effects on reproduction or fetal development.
- Current data on the safety of vaccines for pregnant and breastfeeding persons indicates there are no increased risks of miscarriage or other adverse outcomes. CDC recommends pregnant and breastfeeding persons receive a COVID-19 vaccine.



**THERE ARE NOT ANY KNOWN SAFETY CONCERNS!**

## COVID-19 VACCINES DO NOT GIVE YOU COVID-19



### Moderna and Pfizer:

The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines are **mRNA** vaccines that **do not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 and therefore, cannot give someone COVID-19**. Additionally, mRNA vaccines do not interact with a person's DNA or cause genetic changes because the mRNA does not enter the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. <sup>(ii)</sup>



### J&J/Janssen:

The J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is a **Viral Vector** vaccine, meaning it uses a modified version of a different virus (the vector) to deliver important instructions to our cells. Vaccines that use the same viral vector have been given to pregnant people in all trimesters of pregnancy, including in a large-scale Ebola vaccination trial. **No adverse pregnancy-related outcomes, including adverse outcomes that affected the infant, were associated with vaccination in these trials.** <sup>(iii)</sup>

## Resources:

### Register in the v-safe pregnancy registry!

A **v-safe pregnancy registry** has been established to gather information on the health of pregnant people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more about pregnancy registry:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafepregnancyregistry.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafepregnancyregistry.html)

### MotherToBaby

MotherToBaby experts are available to answer questions about receiving the vaccine while pregnant. The free and confidential service is available Monday–Friday 8am–5pm (local time).

### To reach MotherToBaby:

- **Website** | mothertobaby.org
- **Phone** | 866.626.6847 toll free
- **Text** | 855.999.3525 (standard messaging rates may apply)

**BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center agrees with and supports the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM).**

## References:

i, ii, iii :

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>

