

COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet: Preconception, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

This factsheet is meant to help you make an [informed decision](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine if you are thinking about having a baby, if you are pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding. With additional evidence about COVID-19 vaccination, leading health experts in Canada agree that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and offer pregnant and breastfeeding individuals protection from severe COVID-19 illness.



New research shows that mRNA vaccines are the preferred vaccine to use in pregnancy. The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) recommends a complete two-dose vaccine series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for pregnant and breastfeeding individuals. The [Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada \(SOGC\)](#) supports vaccination at any stage of pregnancy or while breastfeeding, if no medical concern exists. This is because a COVID-19 infection at any stage in pregnancy can be severe.

If you are planning to get pregnant:

- When possible, get fully vaccinated prior to becoming pregnant.
- There is currently no evidence of infertility associated with COVID-19 vaccines.



If you are currently pregnant:

- Protect yourself and your baby by getting vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccine prevents severe illness in individuals who are pregnant.
- Severe COVID-19 illness in pregnancy can cause complications such as:
 - preterm birth
 - neonatal complications
 - fetal distress
 - ICU admission
 - Hospitalization
 - invasive ventilation
 - mortality
- The risk of these complications increases for pregnant individuals who are over 35 years of age or have pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension or obesity.
- There are currently no known harmful effects to your baby or increased risks of miscarriage or birth defects from the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The antibodies that mRNA vaccines produce in pregnant individuals are comparable to those produced in non-pregnant individuals. These antibodies transfer across the placenta, providing protection to the baby.



If you are breastfeeding:

- Protect yourself and your baby by getting vaccinated.
- Recent studies show those who are breastfeeding and have received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine have developed antibodies in their breastmilk. This may offer additional protection for babies.



For more information, visit peterboroughpublichealth.ca/covid19
or call 705-743-1000