

Coronavirus vaccine for pregnant women

Brief information from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health about COVID-19 vaccines.

Pregnant women have an increased probability of a severe COVID-19 disease course. The further into pregnancy a woman is infected, the greater the risk of a severe disease course. Therefore, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health recommends that pregnant women protect themselves by taking two doses of coronavirus vaccine.

Advice:

- All pregnant women who have not had two doses of coronavirus vaccine should complete vaccination in the 2nd and 3rd trimester.
- Pregnant women who belong to a risk group, or are exposed to a high disease burden, can also receive a vaccine in the first trimester.

Background

The Norwegian advice about coronavirus vaccination of pregnant women came after increased knowledge about the vaccine's effect on mother and child, mainly from other countries. For example, the UK has had a higher disease burden for a long time, and many pregnant women have been admitted to hospital.

International studies show that pregnant women infected with COVID-19 have an increased risk of being admitted to hospital and to need respiratory support than non-pregnant women of the same age. The proportion who needed respiratory support increased with the Alpha and Delta variants of the coronavirus. There is also a higher risk of premature birth than among pregnant women who did not have confirmed COVID-19 at the same stage of pregnancy. The risk of breathing problems and premature birth has not been shown among fully vaccinated pregnant women.

These studies show the protective effect of the vaccine against a severe disease course in the mother and confirm the importance of being protected by the vaccine if possible. Antibodies produced by the mother after vaccination are transferred to the foetus so the baby will also be protected after birth. No studies suggest that the vaccine has a negative effect on the pregnancy or the foetus.

Side effects

The most frequent side effects such as headache, fatigue, feeling unwell, fever, nausea and body aches are also common in pregnant women. The symptoms usually appear on the first or second day after vaccination and last about 2-3 days. No pregnancy-specific side effects have been identified with the vaccines approved for use in Norway.

Where can I get the coronavirus vaccine?

Ask your midwife, doctor or check your municipality's website to see where you can get the coronavirus vaccine.

More information

Koronavaksine til gravide
Språk: Engelsk
Opprettet: Desember 2021 Oppdatert:

Read more about the coronavirus vaccines:

<https://www.fhi.no/en/id/vaccines/coronavirus-immunisation-programme/coronavirus-vaccine/>

Read more about the advice to pregnant and breastfeeding women in the [coronavirus guidelines](https://www.fhi.no/en/op/novel-coronavirus-facts-advice/facts-and-general-advice/advice-and-information-for-pregnant-women/):
<https://www.fhi.no/en/op/novel-coronavirus-facts-advice/facts-and-general-advice/advice-and-information-for-pregnant-women/>