

## Coronavirus vaccines for pregnant women

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

### About COVID-19

Pregnant women are more likely to have a severe COVID-19 disease course. The further into her pregnancy a woman becomes infected, the greater the risk of a severe disease course. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health therefore recommends that pregnant women protect themselves by having two doses of coronavirus vaccine.

### Advice:

- All pregnant women who have not completed the primary vaccination series should do so. This applies regardless of the trimester.
- Pregnant women are also recommended to have a booster dose. This is particularly important for pregnant women in their second or third trimester when more than 20 weeks have passed since the first dose, and for women in their first trimester if they also suffer certain other medical conditions.

### Background

The Norwegian advice about coronavirus vaccination of pregnant women came after increased knowledge about the effect of the vaccine on the mother and child. What we know about the effects of the vaccine primarily comes 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 needing respiratory support than non-pregnant women of the same age. The proportion who needed respiratory support has increased with all the coronavirus variants. 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 difficulties and premature birth is low in 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 also 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 common side effects such as headache, fatigue, feeling unwell, fever, nausea and body aches are also common in pregnant women. The symptoms often occur on the first or second day after vaccination and last for 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?

Tittel: Koronavaksine til gravide  
Språk: Engelsk  
Opprettet: 01.12.21

Oppdatert: 16.02.22



Ask your midwife or doctor, or see your municipality's website for information on where you can receive the coronavirus vaccine.

#### **Further information**

Find out more about the advice for pregnant and breastfeeding women in the Coronavirus Guide:  
<https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/coronavirus/befolkningen/rad-for-gravide-og-ammende/>