

FAQs about COVID-19 Infection and Vaccines

- Compared to non-pregnant people, those who are pregnant may be at increased risk for severe complications from COVID-19 infection, including ICU admission, need for mechanical ventilation, and death. ^{3,4,5,7}
- Evidence shows an increased risk for severe illness in Black and Hispanic individuals. People with other health concerns, like diabetes, obesity, heart conditions, kidney disease, or cancer, also are at higher risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 infection. ²
- Clinical trials for the vaccine included Black and Hispanic Americans. The vaccine was equally effective among the study participants. The Pfizer vaccine is up to 95% effective against infection when two doses are given 3-4 weeks apart among people ages 16 and older. Pregnant people were not included in the vaccine studies. ⁶
- While there are not any COVID-19 vaccine studies on the safety or risk for side effects for pregnant people, the vaccine is considered reasonably safe, similar to flu vaccine and Tdap. Studies are planned that will include pregnant people. There are several vaccine monitoring programs, such as CDC's smartphone app V-SAFE (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>) or Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/>).
- The most common side effects include soreness at the site of the injection, fatigue, headache, or muscle aches. Fever was the least common side effect. Side effects are a normal response by your immune system following vaccination. ¹
- Please speak with your WomanCare Centers physician or midwife if you have questions about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

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3. Ellington S, Strid P, Tong VT, Woodworth K, Galang RR, Zambrano LD, et al. Characteristics of women of reproductive age with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection by pregnancy status - United States, January 22-June 7, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:769-75. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6925a1.htm>.
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