

# CDC Update on COVID-19 Vaccination during Pregnancy: Key Messages and Talking Points for Partners



**COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people aged 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to get pregnant now or might become pregnant in the future.** Pregnant and recently pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 compared with non-pregnant people. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy can protect you from severe illness from COVID-19.

## Key Messages

- Based on new evidence about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines, CDC is strengthening its recommendation for COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.
- In a [new analysis](#) of current data from the v-safe pregnancy registry, scientists did not find an increased risk for miscarriage among people who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine before 20 weeks of pregnancy.
- Additionally, previous findings from three safety monitoring systems did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated late in pregnancy or for their babies.
- Growing evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy demonstrates that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks.
- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to get pregnant now or might become pregnant in the future.
- The increased circulation of the highly contagious Delta variant, the low vaccine uptake among pregnant people, and the increased risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19 infection among pregnant people make vaccination for this population more urgent than ever.

## Questions & Answers

### Why is CDC updating the recommendations now?

- Previously, preliminary safety data on vaccinations late in pregnancy were reassuring, but data from people vaccinated during early pregnancy were lacking. These new findings—no increased risk for miscarriage after receiving an mRNA vaccine before 20 weeks of pregnancy—helped to fill that gap in knowledge.
- The growing evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy suggests that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks and vaccination is essential to protect pregnant people.
- Clinicians caring for pregnant people have seen an increase in the number of pregnant people with COVID-19 in the past several weeks. The increased circulation of the highly contagious Delta variant, the low vaccine uptake among pregnant people, and the increased risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19 among pregnant people make vaccination for this population more urgent than ever.

### The risk of miscarriage was 13% in women vaccinated prior to 20 weeks' gestation—is that concerning?

- No, these data are not concerning; miscarriages rates after receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine are within what we expect to see based on previous studies (11-16%). These data do not suggest an increased risk for miscarriage after receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine just before or within the first 20 weeks of pregnancy.

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

Updated August 11, 2021