PREGNANCY VAX FACTS
COVID-19

Pregnancy vaccination against COVID-19 can help protect you and your baby from severe illness, hospitalisation, and death.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It can cause mild to severe illness, and can even be fatal.

Why is COVID-19 vaccination important during pregnancy?

Pregnant women are at an increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19. This means that they are more likely to need to be admitted to hospital, or even to an intensive care unit (ICU) and to need help breathing (invasive ventilation). A COVID-19 infection during pregnancy can also cause complications for the baby, such as **stillbirth** and **premature birth**.

Pregnant women who are **older**, **overweight** or have pre-existing medical conditions such as **hypertension** (high blood pressure) and **diabetes** are at particular risk of serious outcomes from a COVID-19 infection.

What are the benefits of getting vaccinated against COVID-19 during pregnancy?

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 during pregnancy can help to protect you and your baby from some of the serious consequences of COVID-19, including:

- Severe illness
- Hospitalisation
- Death
- Premature birth
- Stillbirth

COVID-19 vaccination may provide indirect protection to babies by transferring antibodies through the placenta (for pregnant women) or through breastmilk (for breastfeeding women).

When should I get vaccinated against COVID-19 during pregnancy?

The COVID-19 vaccine can be given at any time during pregnancy. There are no minimum intervals between COVID-19 vaccination and other routine vaccinations, which means COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time as other vaccines. **Speak with your antenatal healthcare provider about your COVID-19 vaccination options.** They can provide a tailored recommendation based on your individual circumstances.

ANY TIME

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Immunise For Two
Protect Baby, Protect You

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe during pregnancy?

Yes, the COVID-19 vaccine has been extensively tested and monitored, and is safe for both pregnant women and their babies. Extensive clinical trials and real-world data have demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women.

A number of COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for pregnant women by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), which is the Australian government body that regulates medical products. The TGA considers the safety, quality and efficacy of every ingredient in a vaccine before a vaccine is registered for use in Australia.

The safety of pregnancy vaccines are actively monitored by AusVaxSafety, Australia's active vaccine safety monitoring system, with no safety concerns identified.

Are there any risks or side effects associated with getting vaccinated against COVID-19 during pregnancy?

There are some possible risks or side effects associated with getting vaccinated against COVID-19 during pregnancy. However, these are typically mild and short-lived, and the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks. These side effects can include pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, chills, fever, nausea and vomiting.

These side effects are usually mild and go away within a few days. Serious side effects from COVID-19 vaccination are rare. If you are concerned about any side effects, talk to your doctor.
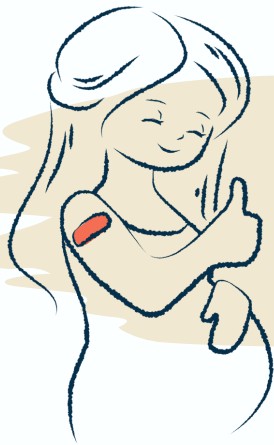
How can I get vaccinated against COVID-19 during pregnancy?

COVID-19 vaccines are free for all pregnant women in Australia. Talk to your GP, obstetrician, midwife or trusted pharmacist about getting vaccinated against COVID-19 during each pregnancy.

What else can I do to protect my baby from COVID-19?

While getting vaccinated against COVID-19 during pregnancy is the most effective way of providing you and your baby with some protection against COVID-19, **taking additional steps can further safeguard your little one**. Encourage those around your baby to stay up-to-date on their vaccinations, practice good hygiene, avoid close contact with sick individuals, and seek prompt medical attention if symptoms arise.

Immunisation Foundation of Australia
Supporting Immunisation, Saving Lives

Want to learn more about pregnancy vaccination?
More fact sheets and resources available here ➔