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Guidance

# COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for women of childbearing age, pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding

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Many vaccines can be given safely in pregnancy, so why are you being advised against this vaccine?  
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The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is a new type of vaccine that has been shown to be effective and to have a good safety profile. It has not yet been assessed in pregnancy, so it has been advised that until more information is available, those who are pregnant should not have this vaccine.

## **Many vaccines can be given safely in pregnancy, so why are you being advised against this vaccine?**

Evidence so far reviewed by the [MHRA](#) raises no concerns for safety in pregnancy.

Because of the new formulation of this particular vaccine the [MHRA](#) wants to see more non-clinical data before finalising the advice in pregnancy.

It is standard practice when waiting for such data on any medicine, to avoid its use in those who may become pregnant or who are breastfeeding. This will be kept under review as more evidence becomes available.

## **What this mean for you**

Here are the key points you should consider until we have more evidence:

- if you are pregnant you should not be vaccinated – you can be vaccinated after your pregnancy is over
- if you think you may be pregnant you should delay vaccination until you are sure you are not
- if you are planning to get pregnant in the next 3 months, you should delay your vaccination
- if you know you are not pregnant you can start the two-dose course now and you should avoid getting pregnant until at least 2 months after the second dose
- if you have had the first dose and then become pregnant you should delay the second dose until after the pregnancy is over

If you are breastfeeding you should wait until you have finished breastfeeding and then have the vaccine. If you were breastfeeding when you had the first dose you are advised not to have the second dose until you have finished breastfeeding.

This advice is precautionary until additional evidence is available to support the use of this vaccine in pregnancy and breastfeeding. It may then be possible to have the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Until that advice is changed you may be able to have one of the other COVID-19 vaccines that are expected.

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