



With COVID-19 vaccinations now being offered to the public, it can be confusing to understand what options are available to you and how your fertility journey will be impacted.

Here are 10 things to know about the

COVID-19 vaccine

Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines use messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology and do not contain any live virus particles.

Patients who are pregnant and contract COVID are five times more likely to end up in the intensive care unit (ICU) or on a ventilator.

Pregnancy is also categorized as a high-risk condition for severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and mortality.



There is no evidence suggesting that the vaccine is not safe for those who are trying to conceive.

Public health authorities, including the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), American College of OB/GYNs (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) continue to assert that the vaccines do not impact fertility.

There is no evidence that the treatment causes first or second trimester loss, stillbirth, or congenital anomalies.

Although fertility was not specifically studied in the trials, infertility has not been reported among trial participants, among the millions who have received the vaccines or in animal studies.



The Society for Male Reproduction and Urology (SMRU) and the Society for the Study of Male Reproduction (SSMR) have also released a statement assuring that vaccines do not impact male fertility.



ASRM, ACOG, SMFM, SMRU and SSMR continue to assert that all individuals should plan to receive the COVID vaccine when they are eligible.

If you are pregnant, lactating or trying to conceive, consult with your healthcare providers and discuss all COVID-19 vaccination options.

As of March 15, pregnancy is considered a pre-existing condition that qualifies pregnant patients for the vaccine.



FAQs

Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility?

No, there is no scientific evidence that the COVID vaccines will cause infertility in men or women. Additionally, there have been no reports of a loss of fertility in animal studies, among trial participants or among the millions who have received the vaccines since their authorization.

For men who experience a fever as a side effect of the vaccine, there may be a temporary decline in sperm production. This is not severe, nor will it impact fertility long-term.

What are the risks of getting COVID-19 when pregnant or trying to conceive?

Patients who are pregnant and contract COVID are five times more likely to end up in the intensive care unit (ICU) or on a ventilator than those who are not pregnant. Pregnancy is also categorized as a high-risk condition for severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and mortality. If you are trying to conceive, the risks of getting COVID-19 will be similar to any other individuals.

What about the claims that say that the syncytin-1 spike protein impacts the human placenta?

There have been claims that the vaccines contain a spike protein called syncytin-1, which is vital for the formation of the human placenta. Furthermore, it has been falsely suggested that since the vaccine forms an immune response against the spike protein, it was training the female body to attack syncytin-1. This claim was quickly debunked, as the vaccine contains neither syncytin-1 nor the mRNA sequence for syncytin-1, meaning that it will not affect the formation of the placenta.

Between Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, which vaccine is safer if I'm pregnant?

Current studies do not show that either vaccine is harmful to those who are pregnant, or to the fetus. Discuss which vaccine is best for your unique medical needs with your healthcare provider. It is recommended that pregnant individuals get their vaccine immediately when they are eligible, regardless of which vaccine they receive.

Still concerned about the impact of the COVID vaccine on fertility, pregnancy or lactation?

Contact your fertility care team today to learn more.

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