

Question & answer

COVID - 19 Vaccine for Pregnant Women



Sultanate of Oman - Ministry of Health
Directorate General of Diseases Surveillance and Control
Directorate General of Primary Health Care
Department of Health Education and Awareness Programs
Department of Woman and Child Health



التحصين وقاية

Immunization is prevention

الحملة الوطنية للتحصين ضد كوفيد-19

#The_National_Campaign_for_Immunization_Against_COVID-19

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What are the benefits of taking the COVID-19 vaccine?

Some studies have shown that pregnant women infected with the COVID - 19 virus are more likely to develop severe illness, which could require hospitalization and admission to the intensive care unit. They are more likely to have stillbirth and premature baby.



Vaccinating a pregnant woman (against the COVID-19 virus), will reduce the severity of infection if exposed to the virus, reduce the risk of preterm birth and stillbirth associated with COVID-19, and can provide potential protection for the fetus and the newborn against COVID-19, by passive antibody transfer.

Thus, taking the vaccine reduces morbidity and mortality among women and their babies.

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Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnancy?

COVID-19 vaccine has been administered to a large number of pregnant women, including more than 120,000 of them in the United States of America alone. No evidence of harm or safety concern related to pregnancy were recorded so far. Therefore, the vaccine has been approved for pregnant women in a number of developed countries such as the United Kingdom and Belgium. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain any ingredients which are known to be harmful to pregnant women or their babies.



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Can I get COVID-19 infection from vaccination?

No, you cannot get COVID-19 from vaccination. Vaccines are designed to stimulate the body's immune response system only without causing infection, and despite the different technologies by which these vaccines work, there is no vaccine that contains "live" virus that is able to cause infection inside the body.



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Does getting a COVID-19 vaccine increase the chance of birth defects?

The current studies indicate that there is no relationship between vaccination of pregnant women and birth defects. Rather, vaccinating them provides protection for the fetus or the newborn, as it has been found that the antibodies formed as a result of taking the vaccine, are transmitted from the mother to the fetus during pregnancy and breastfeeding.



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What are the side effects of taking COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccine side effects:



Redness and itching at the injection site

Allergic reaction



Low-grade fever

It is a common side effect due to the response of the immune system



Headache and body aches

Some may experience these symptoms, which disappear after short time



Nausea

After taking the vaccine, some may experience feeling of vomiting, which will disappear after a short time.



Feeling unwell

Some may feel fatigue, and this feeling may last for 2 days.



muscle pain

Some may feel pain in the arm, where the injection was received.

The presence of these symptoms is an indication for the body immune system response. These symptoms may vary according to the vaccine used and the reactions of different bodies towards it, but these symptoms often disappear within three days after taking the vaccine doses.

Please follow the instructions provided at the vaccination center after taking the vaccine.

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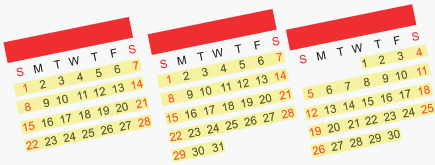
If I received two doses of the vaccine before pregnancy, do I need an extra dose in pregnancy?

No, there is no need for an extra dose as the current recommendation is to take only two doses of the vaccine.

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When can I get COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy?

The vaccine can be taken after completing 12 weeks and starting from the 13th week (4th month) of pregnancy.



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If I received the 1st dose of the vaccine and then I found out that I am pregnant, what should I do?

If you find out that you are pregnant after receiving the 1st dose of the vaccine, you can take the 2nd dose after completing 12 weeks of pregnancy. No further follow-up or examinations are currently recommended as a result of taking the vaccine dose during the first three months of pregnancy.

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If I receive one of the scheduled vaccinations for pregnant women, such as (Tetanus - Influenza), can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine can be taken two weeks after or before taking any other vaccine.



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Can the vaccine be given to pregnant women living with HIV and pregnant women who are taking immunosuppressive drugs?

Yes, if they do not have any other contraindications to vaccination.

However, it must be noted that the immune response acquired from vaccinations in these patients is lower than that expected from the remaining population. (Please consult your treating physician).



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Can the vaccine be given to pregnant women who are on anticoagulants (blood-thinning) medications?

Yes, the vaccine can be given to pregnant women who take blood-thinning drugs (such as heparin injections and aspirin). Symptoms that may occur, such as bleeding at the injection site, which can be overcome by pressing the injection site for at least 5 minutes.

Women using warfarin should consult their physician to determine the possibility of administering the vaccine and to determine the appropriate time to receive the vaccine based on the level of coagulation factor (INR).



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Can the vaccine be given to a pregnant woman with chronic autoimmune disease?

Yes, if she has completed 12 weeks and started 13th week of pregnancy and has no other contraindications to vaccination. (Please consult your treating physician before taken the vaccine).

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Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I had COVID-19 virus infection before?

Yes, you can take the vaccine after completing 4 weeks from the date of complete recovery, and on completion of 12 weeks of pregnancy (13 weeks of pregnancy).

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Can I receive the COVID-19 vaccine if I have been in contact with a COVID-19 patient?

You must not receive the vaccine immediately but instead adhere to home isolation for 14 days. Then you can take the vaccine, if you do not show any symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

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Can I receive the vaccine if I am taking medication to prevent miscarriage?

Yes, provided you have completed 12 weeks and started 13th week of pregnancy.

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Can a pregnant woman receive the COVID-19 vaccine if she received an anti-Rh (anti-D)

Yes, a pregnant woman who has been given an (Anti-D) injection can take the vaccine.

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Can I receive the vaccine before my due date?

Yes, you can be vaccinated before the expected date of delivery.

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Does the vaccine interfere with the delivery by caesarean section?

For emergency operations, receiving the vaccine is not considered an obstacle. However, if it is a planned operation, it is preferable to develop a prior plan to take the vaccine one to two weeks before the date of the operation.

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Who should not take the COVID-19 vaccine?

Pregnant women with a history of severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine or those who got allergic reaction for first dose of COVID-19 vaccine should not take it.

should consult their treating physician before taking the vaccine.



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Where can I get COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine is available at vaccination centers in all the governorates.



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What instructions I should follow before and after getting the vaccine?

- Go to the nearest vaccination center on completion of 12 weeks and starting of 13th week of pregnancy or register an appointment for vaccination, depending on what has been advised in your respective governorate.
- Bring your Antenatal Care Record (green card) with you when you come to the vaccination center.

- After being vaccinated, please wait for least 15 minutes at the waiting area for observation.



○ If you have fever, headache or any other flu-like symptoms, **do not go to the vaccination center**. Please visit the nearest health institution for evaluation and treatment.

○ Consult your treating physician before going to get the vaccine if you suffer from one of the diseases mentioned before that need consultation.

○ If you are in contact with a COVID-19 patient, you must not take the vaccine and adhere to home isolation for 14 days.

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Will getting the vaccine cancel the need for other preventive measures?

NO, it will not. Even after, you are vaccinated, keep following precautionary measures, as not all population received the vaccine yet and there will be a group of people who can be at risk of getting the infection. In addition, until now we do not know how long the COVID-19 vaccine protection last. Thus, continue to adhere to other preventive measures such as hand washing, wearing mask and physical distancing until further notice from the official agents.

**For more inquiries, please contact
the Ministry of Health call center at
24441999**

Taking the preventive measures protecting you and your fetus from the risk of infection:



Wear the face mask and avoid the crowded areas.



Wash your hands with water and soap and use the sanitizer.



Maintain physical distance and avoid contact with patients.

Even after taking the COVID-19 vaccine, please adhere to other preventive measures as taking the vaccine will not cancel the need for these measures

Even though of different technologies by which these vaccines work, there is no vaccine that contains a virus that is able to multiply and cause an infection inside the body.

