

COVID-19 Vaccine and pregnancy

SUMMARY OF ADVICE



INTRODUCTION

With rising cases of COVID-19 in our community, leading medical bodies now recommend Australian women who are pregnant or considering having a child receive the Pfizer mRNA vaccine (Comirnaty).

At Grace, we understand pregnancy can be an anxious time so we've pulled together a brief summary of some of the latest advice and information from the peak medical bodies to help inform your decision about the COVID-19 vaccination.

WHAT IS THE LATEST ADVICE?

The latest statement from The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) advises:

- Australian women who are pregnant or considering having a child should receive the Pfizer mRNA vaccine (Comirnaty).
- The Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine should be given at any time during pregnancy as the risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 is significantly higher for pregnant women and their unborn baby.
- Worldwide data from large groups of pregnant women has not identified any safety concerns with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines given at any stage of pregnancy.
- These vaccines may also help protect newborns from COVID-19 with antibodies passed on through cord blood and breastmilk.
- Women who are trying to become pregnant do not need to delay vaccination or avoid becoming pregnant after vaccination.

<https://ranzcof.edu.au/news/pregnant-women-are-now-eligible-for-the-pfizer-cov>

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/joint-statement-between-ranzcog-and-atagi-about-covid-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-women>

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IS IT SAFE?

RANZCOG has advised the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccination for COVID-19 is safe for pregnant women and their babies. It does not contain the live virus.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/joint-statement-between-ranzcog-and-atagi-about-covid-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-women>

According to the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM), 'a safe vaccine is generally considered one in which the benefits of being vaccinated outweigh the risks.'

The effects of COVID-19 in second and third trimester can be significantly more severe than in non pregnant women, with pregnant COVID-19 patients requiring high level supportive care.

A potential benefit of getting the vaccine while pregnant, according to the SMFM, is that it may help you pass antiCOVID-19 antibodies to your baby. 'In numerous studies of vaccinated moms, antibodies were found in the umbilical cord blood of babies and in the mother's breastmilk.'

The SMFM advises that the only people who should NOT get vaccinated against COVID-19 are those who have had a severe allergic reaction to vaccines in the past or any vaccine ingredients.

At Grace, we encourage all our patients to discuss their individual situation with their specialist.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.smfm.org/media/3040/COVID_vaccine_Patients_JULY_29_2021_final.pdf

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DOES IT AFFECT FERTILITY?

No. According to RANZCOG, the Pfizer COVID-19 (Comirnaty) vaccine does not affect fertility as it is not a 'live' vaccine.

Given this advice, there is no need to delay plans for pregnancy or fertility treatment if you are considering getting the Pfizer COVID-19 (Comirnaty) vaccine.

<https://ranzcoг.edu.au/news/pregnant-women-are-now-eligible-for-the-pfizer-cov>

WHAT ABOUT BREASTFEEDING?

RANZCOG has advised 'there is no evidence of additional risks to breastfeeding women or their children' from the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Australia as it does not contain a live virus. 'Research shows that antibodies made by a mother's body after having COVID-19 are available to her child via her breastmilk.' You can reference the latest RANZCOG breastfeeding fact sheet here:

<https://bit.ly/RANZCOGBreastfeedingInfo>

HOW CAN I GET THE VACCINE?

In July, the Australian Government announced that pregnant women were eligible for the Pfizer vaccine at any stage of pregnancy. You can find a GP offering Pfizer COVID Vaccinations via [Hotdoc.com.au](https://www.hotdoc.com.au) or register at

<https://www.vaccinebookings.health.qld.gov.au/>

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MORE INFORMATION

If you have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine, please discuss your individual situation with your specialist.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy, you can download the **Queensland Health fact sheet** here:

<https://bit.ly/QLDHealthVaccineFactsheet>

For additional information, you can refer to the list of resources below.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/joint-statement-between-ranzcog-and-aggi-about-covid-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-women>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-information-on-covid-19-pfizer-comirnaty-vaccine>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-preparing-for-covid-19-vaccination>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-after-your-pfizer-comirnaty-vaccine>

<https://bit.ly/RANZCOGBreastfeedingInfo>

CONTACT US

If you have further queries, you can contact our rooms between 8.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

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