

Disclaimer: The following questions were those that were asked during our 1/11/21 webinar "What should you know about the COVID-19 vaccine if you're pregnant or breastfeeding?". We have removed repetitive questions, edited the content slightly, and listed all the questions that were answered live. Please remember that information is subject to change based on emerging data. Responses reflect information we have on the COVID-19 vaccine as of 1/11/21.

Vaccine Study

I'd just like to clarify something I heard - did the doctor say the mRNA does not cross placenta?

We do not suspect that it will, as the placenta is a barrier; however we do not have data to prove this yet.

What was the app that can be used to track side effects from the vaccine?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>

Is there any early data from the V-safe app or Univ of Washington's registry project about safety or higher likelihood of vaccine side effects either in 1st vs 2nd/3rd trimester?

You can access the UWash registry here: https://redcap.iths.org/surveys/?s=87JFRCL8R8&fbclid=IwAR0q_JtH7BB-AgIHETPRkv-YIEFowh2dTLpJzhcnR-p9qPuzuqHy6X6beRA

No data has been released yet

If you get the vaccine, do you still need to practice social distancing?

YES!! And wear masks!! All precautions still apply until the community has herd immunity!

If you get the vaccine, how long do you typically have to wait until immunity is built?

In the studies, there is about 60% immunity after the first dose, and about 95% by 2-3 weeks after the second dose.

I have an allergy to bee stings - will there be an anaphylactic reaction risk?

An anaphylactic reaction has occurred in 11 cases in about the 2 million doses administered in the USA. Please speak to your provider about your specific risks.

Is there a reason why one should pick Moderna vs Pfizer (or vice-versa?), can you even pick or does the hospital/doctor pick for you? If you don't have a reaction to the shot, does it mean your body has not developed sufficient immunization?

They both have nearly identical effectiveness and safety profiles. The only difference is the dosing schedule- 3 vs 4 weeks between doses. I am not sure patients will be able to pick (we have not been able to choose!) but if you do have a chance, I would pick the one with the dosing schedule that fits better for you.

Reactions to the shot were only reported in about 15-20% of participants, but 95% were protected. So I would not worry that a lack of reaction means that you did not develop an appropriate response.

Are there any pro/cons to getting one dose during pregnancy and second post-pregnancy (just due to timing of being in the third trimester); or would it be better to wait to get both doses post-pregnancy?

We don't have a lot of data about this, but theoretically, it shouldn't matter.

Vaccine Timing

Would you still suggest getting the vaccine if the person already had COVID-19? Yes

How much time should you wait between Tdap (or any vaccine really) and COVID-19 vaccines while pregnant? 2 weeks

Do you recommend that friends and family that will be around the baby get the vaccine similar to the recommendation around TDAP & flu vaccines?

Yes. We hope that the vaccine will be available to the general population quickly. The idea of herd immunity is that we all protect each other. If everyone you interact with is immune, then you (and your baby) are safer.

Can we take the vaccine right after giving birth?

At this point, we don't think that the vaccine (unlike flu or MMR vaccine) will be routinely available in the hospital for postpartum patients to receive.

As someone very early in pregnancy, what about receiving the vaccine before your placenta develops? Still the same low risk of the mRNA being absorbed by the fetus?

The risk of the fetus being directly exposed to the mRNA is theoretical and very low. mRNA is degraded very quickly in the human body and would be unlikely to pass across the placenta.

Understanding the COVID-19 Vaccines

Why were previous mRNA vaccines not used?

They are in various stages of clinical development, but as with most vaccine studies, the timeline is much much longer than we were able to achieve with COVID-19. Due to urgency and massive investment made by global governments, we were able to see mRNA vaccines be developed incredibly quickly for COVID-19.

Will my baby feel the side effects of a second shot if I am breastfeeding? Should I use stored milk (from pre vaccine) for a day or two?

We do not have any data that the mRNA vaccine will cross into breast milk. We are not recommending "pumping & dumping" breastmilk at this time post-vaccination.

Is there any data that suggests that nursed babies gain any benefits from vaccinated mom's breast milk?

We don't know yet - but we hope so! And theoretically, this is likely the case.

If you get the vaccine, do you still need to socially distance? Asking about people who get vaccinated, if they can visit the baby and mom postpartum.

Yes- the vaccine protects against disease, but we don't know yet if they are protected against asymptomatic spreading.

Does taking Tylenol before the vaccine dose reduce the overall effect of the immune response/effectiveness of the vaccine?

No, Tylenol is not an anti-inflammatory drug - it is a pain reliever and anti-pyretic (anti-fever).

My questions are not related to Covid but I'd appreciate a response. During labor, can I bring a support person (e.g. my Doula) in addition to my boyfriend? I understand I'll be offered meals during the labor process. What options does my boyfriend have for getting food. If we bring home-cooked food with us, can we keep it in our personal refrigerator in the labor room?

We will try to answer this question at the end but want to focus on vaccines today. Partners can order from the cafeteria or order food to the hospital. You can bring a cooler to store your own food or use our fridge which the nurses can access:

We try to keep this website updated on visitor policy and what to expect:

<https://womenshealth.ucsf.edu/whrc/welcome-ucsf-birth-center>

Vaccine Roll-Out

Will the vaccine be offered to UCSF patients who are pregnant before the summer?

We hope so! We will be notifying all of our patients as soon as they are available. You can follow updates on the vaccine roll-out at UCSF here: <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/vaccines>.

Is there a chance pregnant women will actually get prioritized in getting an mRNA vaccine?

Yes! We will talk about that. It depends on your other comorbidities.

How to know if i'm eligible to receive the vaccine? Where to check?

We will be messaging our patients about eligibility soon, likely through MyChart. You can follow updates on the vaccine roll-out at UCSF here: <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/vaccines>.

Does pregnancy count as an underlying condition for purposes of the vaccine tier system?

It is considered a comorbidity, and is considered a part of the tiered system. Meaning, if you have Type 2 diabetes and are pregnant, you will likely get the vaccine earlier than if you were not.

The following questions were answered live:

1. *Is there rationale behind getting the vaccine later in pregnancy like in trimester 2 or 3 vs 1? I am pregnant and getting my vaccine today, is there a volunteer study that I can participate in so that data can be gathered for pregnant women? I would be happy to participate.*
2. *Is it ok to get your first vaccine dose late in the 3rd trimester and the second dose postpartum?*
3. *Will immunity from the vaccinated mother pass to the baby if pregnant or breastfeeding?*
4. *Is there any rationale for waiting to get the vaccine until after delivery when breastfeeding instead of during pregnancy?*
5. *Will UCSF be offering vaccines earlier to patients who are essential workers? Does UCSF know what it's patients do?*
6. *You indicated that pregnancy was high on the list. Does post-baby (postpartum) still keep you at the priority? Or no because you are not pregnant anymore?*
7. *Is there any increase in tier placement for breastfeeding mothers?*
8. *Are there data from other mRNA vaccine studies of long term side effects on babies? You mentioned Zika and Cancer vaccine studies, did those include pregnant mothers? Was there follow up to understand effects on children?*
9. *If I am eligible for the vaccine but can work remotely and stay isolated until I give birth, is it wiser to hold off? Or at least wait until the second trimester?*
10. *After the 2nd dose of vaccination, is the thought then for people to be safe to not wear masks in public? Do we also know the rate for the patients in the current clinical studies whether they caught Covid again after the 2nd dose of the vaccination?*
11. *If there is no chance of getting Covid from the vaccine, why do you need to socially distance? asking because our planned baby caregivers will likely not get the vaccine for a while so wondering what the risk is to mom post partum and the baby.*
12. *Can you still be a carrier if you have had the vaccine? If I get the vaccine but my family doesn't can I still give Covid to them?*
13. *Can you share what the rate is (after you receive the 2nd dose of vaccination) to get Covid again based on the current clinical studies?*
14. *Both my husband and I work from home and are very cautious/don't see people without a mask on. I am 9 weeks pregnant. 30 yo, healthy and no comorbidities. Given the above, would you recommend still getting it? I know this is such a personal decision but just curious what you would do if you were in my situation. Thank you!*
15. *During rollout, will pregnant patients be considered 16-64 with underlying condition, or no/will pregnant people be in a later group?*
16. *If you get vaccinated and someone with Covid coughs in your face. Does this mean that there is a 95% chance you will not get symptomatic and 5% that you will get covid? or is it that 95% chance that your body knows how to fight covid?*
17. *mRNA would not enter breastmilk, correct?*