

28.5.2021

Vaccination against COVID-19 in pregnancy

Dear colleagues

So far: After the FOPH initially excluded pregnant women from being vaccinated against COVID-19 and then allowed only pregnant women with the highest risk to be vaccinated, since 14.4.2021 an expanded group of pregnant women has been given the opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in the 2nd or 3rd trimester. This group included pregnant women with all the chronic illnesses defined for those who are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 ([see Categories of persons at high risk](#)) and pregnant women at high risk for COVID-19 (particularly healthcare personnel) in the 2nd or 3rd trimester. This option was subject to the requirement for a detailed briefing with written informed consent and a prescription by a gynaecologist/obstetrician

New: The new recommendation for vaccination in pregnancy has now been further extended. To date, over 200,000 pregnant women in the USA have been vaccinated with the mRNA vaccines without any evidence of unexpected side effects on the mother or child. A prospective non-randomized follow-up registry study with over 35,000 vaccinated pregnant women published at the end of April 2021 (*Shimabukuro et al., N Engl J Med, April 22, 2021*) did not show any evidence of direct or indirect harmful effects of the vaccination on the pregnancy, embryonal/foetal development, birth or postnatal development. **On the basis of this additional study data, the FOPH, EFIK and SGGG have decided to allow all pregnant women to receive COVID-19 vaccination as follows:**

1. **COVID-19 vaccination with an mRNA vaccine is recommended for all pregnant women who suffer from a chronic illness listed in the list of categories of persons at high risk ([see Categories of persons at high risk](#)) or with an increased risk from COVID-19.** This is possible after a detailed medical briefing (by a gynaecologist or general practitioner) with a careful benefit-risk analysis and written informed consent.
2. **Furthermore, all pregnant women can now be vaccinated if they so wish,** likewise after a detailed medical briefing (by a gynaecologist or general practitioner) with a careful benefit-risk analysis and written informed consent.
3. **The vaccination against COVID-19 should not be administered in the 1st trimester of pregnancy.** If an mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 has been administered in early pregnancy inadvertently, there is no reason to consider terminating the pregnancy. Neither the animal studies nor in the known cases of vaccinations in early pregnancy (over 1,000 published cases in the above-mentioned study) was any harm to the embryo reported, nor was the abortion rate increased.
4. **Before receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, the pregnant woman must have signed an informed consent form and obtained a prescription (by a gynaecologist/obstetrician or general practitioner).** Pregnant women can then register directly online on the cantonal vaccination registration websites to arrange an appointment for the vaccination. **The priorities for vaccination are determined by the cantonal health authorities.**
5. **The pregnancy and birth must be followed up by the treating gynaecologist (to record any side effects of the vaccination on the mother or child). Any relevant undesirable side effects must be reported to Swissmedic.**

In collaboration with the FOPH, the SGGG has also produced two forms, which you can download here:

- [Informed consent form and prescription](#)
- [Follow-up form](#)

These forms should be used for the vaccination of pregnant women. They are available in the three national languages. If the patient agrees to anonymous data collection in the COVID Registry at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), she can sign the follow-up form accordingly, and the gynaecologist can send the form to the COVID Registry at CHUV (e-mail: covipreg@chuv.ch). Please note that this reporting in the registry does not replace the reporting of any relevant undesirable side effects to Swissmedic.

Please note the following additional **important information**:

- **Since the mRNA vaccination against COVID-19 does not have any adverse effects on the fertility of men or women, it can also be administered prior to a planned pregnancy. The couple can try to conceive approx. 3-4 weeks after the 2nd dose of an mRNA vaccine.**
- **mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 can be administered during the breastfeeding period without any restrictions**

Yours sincerely

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