



## Please help monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety in pregnancy

We would like to ask for your help to monitor the safety of your COVID-19 vaccine. To do this you are invited to take part in a national programme to help monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women.

This programme is run by the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA is responsible for authorising medicines, including vaccines, and for making sure that they are safe.

## Why we monitor vaccines

Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent infectious diseases and they save millions of lives worldwide. Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most are mild and don't last long, and not everyone gets them.

The large trials which showed that these vaccines are safe and effective did not include pregnant women – as often happens in clinical trials. This means there is limited information about the effects of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women. A very small number of women became pregnant after they received the vaccine in a trial. There was no sign of problems, but the numbers are too small to be certain. The MHRA is collecting more information to help us build a better picture of safety in pregnancy.

## How you can help

Please sign up to the Yellow Card Vaccine Monitor, you will need an email address at hand to register:

- Register with our website before you receive your vaccine if possible at https://vaccinemonitor-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk or scan the QR code on this leaflet and click 'Sign in or register'.
- If you have already had your vaccine, you can still sign up.
- If you need help to register, please ask a friend, family member or carer to sign up and report on your behalf.
- **Note** your vaccine name and batch number. You can find this on the card that you will be given when you receive your vaccine.
- **Read** the patient information leaflet carefully as it includes the known possible side-effects, this is available on our website.
- You can find out more about COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy from the Public Health England leaflet<sup>1</sup> you have been given, the NHS.UK web pages<sup>2</sup>, Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology web pages<sup>3</sup>.
- The MHRA website<sup>4</sup> will give more information on what will happen after you register.

## What we will do with any reports of side effects

The Yellow Card Vaccine Monitor is part of our long-established UK system for collecting and monitoring the safety of medicines, vaccines and medical devices.

A team of safety experts that includes doctors, pharmacists and scientists continually evaluates reports of suspected side effects.

They consider other information, such as medical literature and data from international medicines regulators to help ensure that the benefits of the vaccine continue to outweigh any risks.

If you need help, please contact our customer service team on **0800 731 6789**. Please note that we are not involved in booking vaccination appointments and cannot assist with any telephone calls about this.

I hope you will be able to support us. By doing so you will directly help our continuous safety monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Branch

Dr Sarah Branch Director of Vigilance & Risk Management of Medicines



1. www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding

- 2. www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine
- 3. www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/coronavirus-covid-19-pregnancy-and-womens-health/ covid-19-vaccines-and-pregnancy/
- 4. https://vaccinemonitor-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk



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Taking part is voluntary and will not impact your booking to get vaccinated. If you feel you are unable to take part, that is fine.

