

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The COVID-19 vaccine series is not widely available to the general population yet. OB GYN Associates does not currently have the COVID-19 vaccine and we do not yet know when, or if, we will have it available to give to patients.

To date, as part of the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccination program recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP); Vaccination priority is focused on frontline healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities. Johnson County Public Health is leading the local allocation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'm not pregnant, and not trying to conceive; Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Vaccination is recommended by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) for non-pregnant individuals within the initial phase's prioritization group(s).

I'm trying to conceive, or considering trying to conceive; Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- ACOG recommends vaccination of individuals who are actively trying to become pregnant or are contemplating pregnancy and meet the criteria for vaccination-based prioritization groups outlined by the ACIP. Additionally, it is not necessary to delay pregnancy after completing both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

I'm pregnant; Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- ACOG recommends that COVID-19 vaccines should not be withheld from pregnant individuals who meet criteria for vaccination based on prioritization outlined by ACIP. While safety data on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy are not currently available, there are also no data to indicate that the vaccines should not be given to pregnant individuals and no safety signals generated from studies for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Pregnant individuals are free to make their own decision in conjunction with their clinical care team.

I'm lactating; will my milk be safe to give my baby if I get the vaccine? Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- ACOG recommends COVID-19 vaccines be offered to lactating individuals the same as non-lactating individuals when they meet the criteria for vaccination based on current prioritization outlined by the ACIP. Theoretical concerns regarding the safety of vaccinating lactating individuals do not outweigh the potential benefits of receiving the vaccine.

Vaccines are one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. Before the widespread use of vaccines, people routinely died from infectious diseases, several of which have since been eradicated thanks to robust immunization programs.

- Several vaccines have safely been given to pregnant and lactating individuals for decades.
- The rigor of COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials with regards to monitoring safety and efficacy meet the same high standards and requirements as with a typical vaccine approval process.
- While there has been a worldwide attempt to develop COVID-19 vaccines rapidly, this does not mean that any safety standards have been relaxed. In fact, there are additional safety monitoring systems to track and monitor these vaccines, including real-time assessment.
- Side effects such as influenza-like-illness can be expected with these vaccines, however this is a normal reaction as the body develops antibodies to protect itself against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines cannot cause COVID-19 infection. It is important not to be dissuaded by these side effects, because to get the maximum protection against COVID-19, patients need two doses of the vaccine.