Should I get a vaccine?

Getting the vaccine is absolutely your decision. Make sure you have the facts from trusted sources like the Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists and the NHS to help you make that decision

Why do I need the vaccine?
The virus is spreading widely among pregnant women, with more and more women being admitted to hospital with severe COVID-19 symptoms. That's why health experts now recommend that all pregnant women are vaccinated. The vaccine is the best way to reduce the risk of you getting COVID-19 and being seriously unwell with it.

Doesn't COVID just affect older people?
More and more younger people, who are less likely to be fully vaccinated, are getting COVID and becoming seriously ill. This includes pregnant women, with nearly two hundred from May to July being admitted to hospital. Pregnant women are at greater risk of becoming severely unwell with COVID-19, especially in the later stages of pregnancy.

Could having COVID hurt my baby?
Becoming unwell with COVID in the last trimester doubles your chance of stillbirth and triples your chance of having your baby prematurely. It also increases the chance of you needing an emergency caesarean section.

Will the vaccine harm my baby?
No. The vaccine doesn't contain any live virus, so it can't be passed to your baby through the placenta. The antibodies you develop after having the vaccine CAN be passed through the placenta, so it's likely that your baby will have greater protection against the virus when they are born.

How do you know it's safe?
Although the vaccine itself is new, it's based on science that's been used safely for pregnant women for many, many years – like the whooping cough or flu vaccines. There's no live virus in the vaccine, just a protein which kick starts your immune system, so you won't get COVID, or any other illness, from the vaccine.

How many women have had the vaccine?
In the UK and USA alone, over 200,000 pregnant women have now been vaccinated, with no adverse effects on the woman, pregnancy or baby.

Can I wait until after the baby's born?
Because of the higher risks if you get COVID in the late stages of pregnancy, it really is safer for both you and your baby to have the vaccine as soon as you can.

Go to the NHS booking service or speak to your midwife, GP or practice nurse about how to get the vaccine.

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