

COVID-19 Vaccination for Those Who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding

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The first COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Japan is a new type of vaccine called “mRNA vaccine”. This vaccine does not contain any virus particles, meaning that the virus will not enter the body through vaccination.

Based on the previous data, it has been reported that if pregnant women become infected with COVID-19, particularly in the third trimester, they are more likely to become severely ill. The result of the research has also been released that although the long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are unknown regardless of pregnancy status, the frequency of adverse reactions (e.g. injection site pain, malaise) to the vaccine is similar among pregnant and non-pregnant women, and it does not increase the risk of preterm birth or abnormal fetal development. We therefore consider that there is no need to withhold the vaccination for reasons of pregnancy or breastfeeding at this point.

Currently, Center for Disease Control and Prevention encourages all pregnant people or people who are thinking about becoming pregnant and those breastfeeding to get vaccinated to protect themselves from COVID-19. COVID-19 has been transmitted from family members (husbands or partners) who live in the same household in approximately 80% cases among pregnant women in Japan. Therefore, the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology now encourages pregnant women and their husbands or partners to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as of August 14, 2021. In addition, you can get vaccinated regardless of gestational age or whether or not you are breastfeeding.

* Please follow the instructions of local governments for the process of COVID-19 vaccination.

*For information on COVID-19 vaccination at Seibo Hospital, please refer here (our website: https://www.seibokai.or.jp/resources/file/pdf/information_Regarding_COVID-19_vaccination.pdf).

*Even if you are fully vaccinated, there is still a risk of infection. Continue to take preventive measure after vaccination.

References:

- (1) Center for Disease Control and Prevention: COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>
- (2) Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology: To all expectant mothers
http://www.jsog.or.jp/news/pdf/20210814_COVID-19_02.pdf
- (3) COVID Vaccine Q & A, MHLW: <https://www.cov19-vaccine.mhlw.go.jp/qa/0027.html>