

Regional Clinical Advice Response Service 14/12/20

For any COVID-19 vaccination related queries or to escalate an incident please contact: england.swcovid19-voc@nhs.net

COVID-19 Vaccination Updated Advice

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Although the available data do not indicate any safety concern or harm to pregnancy, there is insufficient evidence to recommend routine use of COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy. It is **not** recommended that COVID-19 vaccines are given in pregnancy and women should be advised not to attend for vaccination if they are, or may be pregnant, or are planning a pregnancy within three months of the first dose. In addition, to not vaccinating in pregnancy, MHRA advise that pregnancy should be avoided until 2 months after the second dose of vaccine. MHRA have not advised performing a pregnancy test prior to offering vaccination. If a woman finds out she is pregnant after she has started a course of vaccine, she should complete her pregnancy before finishing the recommended schedule. Women at high risk (including health care workers), should be offered vaccine as soon as possible after pregnancy. Termination of pregnancy following inadvertent immunisation should not be recommended.

Similarly, the current advice for breastfeeding women is that until additional information has been gathered, breastfeeding women should not receive the COVID-19 vaccination. The risk of serious illness or hospitalisation from COVID-19 in young people is low and so delaying the vaccination presents less risk than ceasing breast feeding for most women and babies. In women with significant underlying conditions the advice would be to discuss with their specialist as they may require a specific risk assessment.

For further guidance please refer to The Green Book (link below)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/943663/Greenbook_chapter_14a_v3.pdf

Allergic reactions and Anaphylaxis

The COVID-19 vaccine should not be given to those who have had 1) a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of the same COVID-19 vaccine or 2) a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to any components of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Following a small number of cases of anaphylactoid reactions in individuals with a strong past history of allergic reactions, the following advice now also applies:



Any person with a history of a significant allergic reaction to a vaccine, medicine or food (such as previous history of anaphylactoid reaction or those who have been advised to carry an adrenaline autoinjector) should not receive the Pfizer BioNtech vaccine.

Resuscitation facilities should be available at all times for all vaccinations. Vaccination should only be carried out in facilities where resuscitation measures are available. A 15 min observation period for all patients following COVID-19 vaccination is now mandatory.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmation-of-guidance-to-vaccination-centres-on-managing-allergic-reactions-following-covid-19-vaccination-with-the-pfizer-biontech-vaccine>

Please see below for a link to support GPs in **managing anaphylaxis** whilst delivering the COVID-19 vaccine:

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=11672>

Please see below link for support on **conducting CPR** in community settings:

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=11603>

All COVID-19 vaccination queries and incidents should be directed to:
[**england.swcovid19-voc@nhs.net**](mailto:england.swcovid19-voc@nhs.net)