

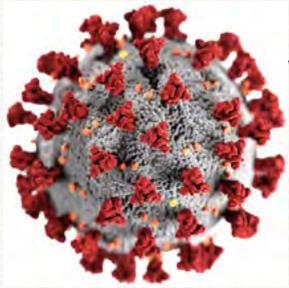
COVID-19 Vaccine

Questions on Fertility--Separating Fact from Fiction

How do vaccines work?

Although there are different types of vaccines, they all have the same purpose--to help our bodies fight against germs without getting sick from the disease. Many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies, but messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines are a little different.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines tell our cells to make a harmless piece of the "spike protein." The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. Our body can tell that this protein doesn't belong and begins making antibodies (proteins that help your body fight the germ). If you ever come across the COVID-19 virus in the future, your body can fight it.



Will mRNA vaccines change my DNA?

No, mRNA vaccines do NOT change your DNA (genetic material). mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

Is getting sick with COVID-19 more dangerous for pregnant people than those who are not-pregnant?

Pregnant people are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. There may also be an increased risk for a preterm birth or stillbirth.

Will the COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility?

There is NO evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility. Since the mRNA vaccine does not change or affect a person's DNA, it cannot affect fertility.



Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

Those who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding who are part of a group recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., healthcare worker, those in group settings such as housing or correctional facilities, those with certain medical conditions, etc.), may choose to be vaccinated. There are limited data on the COVID-19 vaccine and its affect on pregnancy, but experts believe it does not pose a risk. Also, there are no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in people who are breastfeeding, but mRNA vaccines are not thought to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant. Talk to your healthcare provider to decide what is best for you and your baby.

For More Information:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

