



LEE OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

We, the physicians at Lee Obstetrics and Gynecology, realize there are questions regarding the Covid-19 vaccine in pregnant patients, lactating patients, as well as patients wishing to become pregnant. The following sheet summarizes the key points from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) Practice Advisory, December 2020.

Pregnancy

1. Available data suggest that symptomatic pregnant patients with Covid-19 are at increased risk of more severe illness compared with nonpregnant peers.
2. ACOG recommends that Covid-19 vaccines should not be withheld from pregnant individuals who meet criteria for vaccination.
3. While safety data on the use of Covid-19 vaccines in pregnancy are not currently available, there are also no data to indicate the vaccines should be contraindicated in pregnancy either.

Lactation

The vaccine should also be offered to lactating individuals, similar to non-lactating individuals. While lactating individuals were not included in most clinical trials, Covid-19 vaccines should not be withheld from lactating individuals who otherwise meet criteria for vaccination. Theoretical concerns regarding the safety of vaccinating lactating individuals do not outweigh the potential benefits of receiving the vaccine. There is no need to avoid initiation or discontinue breastfeeding in patients who receive a Covid-19 vaccine.

Individuals Contemplating Pregnancy

1. Vaccination is strongly encouraged for non-pregnant individuals. ACOG recommends vaccination of individuals who are actively trying to become pregnant or contemplating pregnancy. Additionally, it is not necessary to delay pregnancy after completing both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.
2. Given the mechanism of action and the safety profile of the vaccine in non-pregnant individuals, Covid-19 mRNA vaccines are not thought to cause an increased risk of infertility.
3. If an individual becomes pregnant after the first dose of the vaccine, the second dose should be administered as indicated.

In all these different scenarios, ACOG recommends that patients should be free to make their own decision regarding receiving the vaccine in conjunction with their clinical care team and should be supported in their decision as well. Regardless of a patient's decision to vaccinate or not, patients should continue to be reminded to wash their hands, wear a mask, and physical distance.