

COVID-19 Vaccine Infertility Myth

ct.gov/covidvaccine



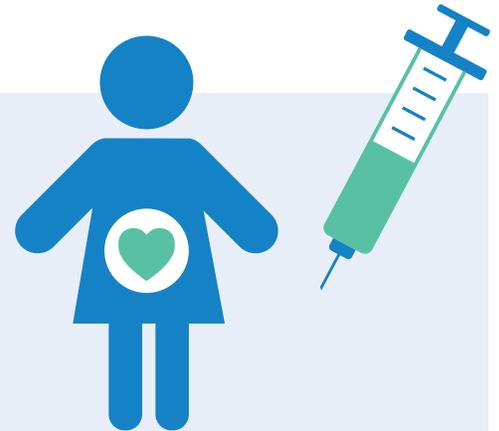
BUSTED!

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Is it true that the COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility?

NO. THIS MYTH IS FALSE.

There is no evidence to date that the vaccine causes any problems with fertility, in women or men, or pregnancy.



How did this myth get started?

In December 2020 erroneous claims were made that the vaccines contain a protein called syncytin-1, which is vital for the development of the placenta in pregnant women, and that the vaccine would cause the generation of antibodies that would attack syncytin-1, disrupting the formation of the placenta and leading to infertility or miscarriage. The claim was picked up on social media and sadly, false news travels fast.

What is the truth?

Syncytin-1 shares a small piece of genetic code with the spike protein of the coronavirus, but that is where the similarity ends. They are two completely different proteins, and it is not possible for the antibodies created by the vaccines to recognize and attack any protein other than the one found on the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. Think of it this way: your immune system getting mixed up and attacking placental protein would be like you mistaking an elephant for a dolphin because they're both gray.

How can you be sure?

- While COVID-19 vaccines remain under study, thus far **there is no data that the vaccines may cause infertility.**
- There are also **no credible scientific theories for how the vaccines could cause infertility.**
- Though pregnant women were excluded from the vaccine trials, **several women did become pregnant during the trials.** In all, only one woman suffered a miscarriage, and she was given a placebo, NOT the vaccine.



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What else should I know?

While there is no evidence to date that the vaccines cause infertility or miscarriage, **there is plenty of evidence that contracting COVID-19 can be dangerous for pregnant women and their unborn babies:**

VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

- **NO impact on pregnancy or fertility**
- Fever, Chills, Muscle Aches, Fatigue*
- Extremely rare cases of myocarditis/pericarditis (inflammation of/around heart muscle)
- Extremely rare cases of allergic reaction
- Extremely rare cases of blood clots

COVID-19 RISKS

- **High risk for severe COVID-19**
- Increased risk for **pregnancy complications**
- Increased need for **mechanical ventilation**
- Increased risk of **miscarriage/fetal death**
- Increased risk for **preterm delivery**
- Increased risk for **blood clots**
- Increased risk for **hypertension**

** Women undergoing in vitro fertilization or other similar procedures should consult their doctor before receiving the vaccine to ensure proper timing to avoid confusing potential short term side effects of the vaccine with any type of infection related to the procedure.*

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