

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

*Joint Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination and Treatment During Pregnancy, Postpartum and/or Lactation
4/7/2022*

Background

Pregnant individuals with COVID-19 have a higher risk of a critical course of illness and require more hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and invasive ventilation including ECMO when compared to non-pregnant individuals. Patients who have severe illness due to COVID-19 have increased risk of cesarean section, preterm birth, hypertension, and blood clots. Studies have shown an increased risk of death associated with COVID-19 infection in pregnancy compared to non-pregnant status. There also appears to be an increased infection rate in pregnant patients, almost 70% more than similarly aged adults.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Vaccination against COVID-19 reduces the risk of infection, hospitalization, and death. Studies have shown that the COVID-19 vaccination is safe in pregnant and lactating people and has no increased adverse effects. There is no plausible mechanism with which COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility, and currently available data have not shown a significant effect to fertility. COVID-19 vaccines do not increase the risk of miscarriage or stillbirth. COVID-19 antibodies have been found in umbilical cord blood and breast milk, thereby providing some level of protection to the fetus/infant.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) issued a joint statement recommending that all pregnant individuals be vaccinated against COVID-19. Currently, the statement is endorsed by more than 20 leading national organizations representing experts in perinatal and public health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also made an unequivocal recommendation in favor of perinatal vaccination.

Recommendations:

In collaboration with the New Mexico Perinatal Collaborative and the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Health strongly recommends that all pregnant, postpartum, and lactating persons receive an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) SARS-CoV-2 vaccine series, including the two initial doses and a booster dose, per the currently approved dose schedules. We recommend initial vaccination or the booster dose be given promptly, regardless of trimester. We do NOT recommend delaying vaccination during preconception or until after pregnancy as this represents a clear increase in risk for long-term and severe health consequences and pregnancy complications due to COVID-19.

There is an abundance of safety data showing no increased pregnancy-related risks for those vaccinated during preconception or pregnancy and significant protection from asymptomatic infection, symptomatic and hospitalization and severe or critical COVID-19 disease for the pregnant person.

We recommend that pregnant and recently pregnant people be given access to and be prioritized to receive available therapeutic medications regardless of vaccination status and other risk factors due to the increased risks of severe disease, death, and pregnancy complications outlined in the full statement.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Resources for New Mexico Healthcare Systems and Providers

Attachment 1: NMDOH, NMPC & UNM Joint Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination and Treatment During Pregnancy, Postpartum and/or Lactation; COVID-19 Therapeutics Quick Reference for Perinatal Providers

Additional Information

[Pregnant and Recently Pregnant People | CDC](#)

[CDC COVID Data Tracker: Pregnant People: COVID-19 Illness and Outcomes](#)

For questions, please contact the New Mexico Department of Health COVID-19 Therapeutics Team at COVID.Therapeutics@state.nm.us

During a COVID-19 surge, clinicians should check the inventory status prior to treatment selection. Information regarding participating locations, inventory status, and COVID-19 therapeutics can be found at: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/providers/covid-19-oral-therapeutics-information-for-providers/>

Information on the authorized products for the treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus and other authorized products for treatment or prevention of COVID 19 are available on FDA's [Emergency Use Authorization Drugs and Non-Vaccine Biological Products webpage](#)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.