



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE (ASRM) PATIENT MANAGEMENT
AND CLINICAL RECOMMENDATIONS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

UPDATE No. 16 – July 23, 2021

Reproductive Facts Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination

- As of July 16, 2021, the 7-day moving average of daily new cases of COVID-19 in the United States (U.S.) increased by nearly 70% compared with the previous 7-day moving average.¹
- The current status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. has been called “a pandemic of the unvaccinated”². The incidence of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths fell precipitously as COVID-19 vaccinations became widely available. Unfortunately, hospitalization rates are rising again, due to the highly contagious delta variant, especially in states with low vaccination rates. Nearly all (97%) recently hospitalized patients are unvaccinated.²⁻⁵
- Current CDC data suggest only 16.3% of pregnant women included in CDC’s Vaccine Safety Data link have received ≥ 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy.⁶ This low rate of vaccination is particularly concerning given the known increased risk of adverse outcomes for women infected with COVID-19 during pregnancy.^{7,8}
- Reproductive endocrinologists should discuss COVID-19 vaccination with all patients and encourage vaccination for all patients during evaluation and treatment for infertility. Vaccination either pre-conception or early during pregnancy is the best way to reduce maternal/fetal complications. Physician counseling has been shown to have significant positive impact on patient willingness to consider vaccination.⁹
- None of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines reach or cross the placenta. The intramuscularly administered vaccine mRNA remains in the deltoid muscle cell cytoplasm for just a few days before it is destroyed.^{10,11} However, protective antibodies to COVID-19 have been shown to cross the placenta and confer protection to the baby after delivery.^{12,13}
- COVID-19 vaccination does not induce antibodies against the placenta.¹⁴
- Existing data suggest COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy does not increase risk of miscarriage.¹⁵
- COVID-19 vaccination does not impact male or female fertility or fertility treatment outcomes.¹⁶⁻¹⁸

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