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COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant and Lactating Patients: 8/12/21

We understand that our pregnant and breast feeding patients have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines that are becoming available. This letter is to give you information so that you may make an informed decision on whether to be vaccinated.

Pregnant patients may be at an increased risk for severe illness and complications from COVID-19 infection. If infected, there is evidence that the virus does not cross through the placenta to the baby.

Three of our guiding agencies, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend vaccination during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. We providers strongly recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant (in any trimester) and lactating women. In addition to disease prevention, the vaccine reduces complications and poor outcomes for mother and baby if infected. However, if you chose not to take the vaccine, we will sign off on your work form during pregnancy and 2 months postpartum. Information to consider includes the current messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines available under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) do not contain live virus. There is no data that indicate that the vaccines should be contraindicated. The vaccine is considered safe for pregnant and lactating women. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the final dose of your vaccine series. A COVID-19 vaccine may be administered simultaneously with other vaccines such as Tdap in pregnancy.

It is important that you consider all of the data before making your decision. If you are breast feeding and choose to be vaccinated, you do not need to stop breast feeding.

It is important that you follow other prevention measures such as wearing a mask, frequently washing your hands or using hand sanitizer, and maintaining social distancing.

Information changes rapidly and recommendations are currently evolving. Valuable resources include:

* <https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2021/07/acog-smfm-recommend-covid-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-individuals>
* https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care
* <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.smfm.org/media/3056/PDF_with_links.pdf>
* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>

Go to the site below to find a vaccine provider near you:

* <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

Your health is important to us. If you have questions or additional concerns, we can discuss at your next appointment or you may call the office at 336-273-2835.

The Providers at Wendover Ob-Gyn & Infertility, Inc.