

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for nursing mothers?

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The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) does not recommend cessation of breastfeeding for individuals who are vaccinated against COVID-19. In a new statement, the ABM suggests that lactating women discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their health care provider, within the context of their risk of contracting COVID-19 and of developing severe disease, according to the peer-reviewed journal *Breastfeeding Medicine*.

This is a challenging topic because the [vaccine trials](#) excluded lactating women. Thus, there are no clinical data regarding the safety of the Pfizer/BioNtech or the Moderna vaccine in nursing mothers. According to the ABM statement, "there is little biological plausibility that the vaccine will cause harm, and antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] in milk may protect the breastfeeding child."

"Without [clinical data](#), the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine relied on biological plausibility and expert opinion to craft a statement on considerations for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in lactation," says Alison Stuebe, MD, President of ABM. "The available information is reassuring;

however, pregnant and lactating people deserve better than plausibility to guide medical decisions. Henceforward, phase 3 [clinical trials](#) should routinely include pregnant and lactating participants. It's time to protect pregnant and breastfeeding individuals through research, not from research."

Arthur I. Eidelman, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Breastfeeding Medicine*, states: "The publication of the balanced ABM statement will serve as an immediate guide for clinicians and families in deciding to proceed with COVID-19 vaccination of nursing mothers."

More information: Alison Stuebe, President's Corner: Introduction to ABM's Statement on Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination in Lactation, *Breastfeeding Medicine* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/bfm.2020.29171.ams](https://doi.org/10.1089/bfm.2020.29171.ams)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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