

# After Vaccination Information for Pregnant Women



*Some infectious diseases can cause serious harm to pregnant women or their babies. Vaccination during pregnancy not only protects the mother but also can make antibodies that can cross the placenta, providing protection to the unborn baby from birth. Vaccines, like any other medication or natural therapy can have side effects. It is important to be aware of any reactions that may occur after receiving the whooping cough (pertussis), flu (influenza) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines.*

## Are vaccines safe during pregnancy?

Yes. Before a vaccine can be used in Australia it must be licensed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA uses scientific evidence on each vaccine to assess safety and effectiveness. The whooping cough, flu, RSV and COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be safe to have during pregnancy.

## Common reactions

Most vaccines can cause mild reactions; these are usually short lasting and do not require special treatment. If the reaction seems severe or persists and/or you are concerned, seek further advice from your GP or immunisation provider as soon as possible or go directly to a hospital. You can also receive general advice by calling:

### Immunisation Section at SA Health



1300 232 272



9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

### Healthdirect Australia



1800 022 222



24 hours, 7 days

## Rare reactions

On very rare occasions a severe allergic reaction such as anaphylaxis may occur, requiring immediate medical treatment. Your immunisation provider is trained to recognise and manage any immediate severe reactions. A severe anaphylactic reaction will generally occur within the first 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine. Fainting may occur after receiving a vaccine and people should lie down if experiencing lightheadedness.

**It is important for you to wait for 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine so you may be observed for any reactions, and for treatment to be provided if needed.**

Common reactions	Management of common reactions
<b>All vaccines</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site for 1-2 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paracetamol</li> <li>Place a cool cloth onto the injection site</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever (temperature)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paracetamol</li> <li>Have extra fluids</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A small hard lump may appear where the injection was given and persist for some weeks or months</li> <li>Drowsiness or tiredness</li> <li>Muscle aches and pains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No treatment needed</li> </ul>
<b>RSV vaccine</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headache</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest</li> <li>Paracetamol</li> </ul>
<b>Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint pain</li> <li>Decreased appetite and/or nausea</li> <li>Headache</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest</li> <li>Paracetamol</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza vaccine</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling unwell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest</li> <li>Paracetamol</li> </ul>

**Speak with your doctor about COVID-19 vaccination recommendations during pregnancy.**

## How to report a reaction

Reporting a reaction following immunisation is an essential part of ensuring ongoing vaccine safety monitoring. All serious or unexpected reactions should be reported either by completing an online Vaccine Reaction Report Form at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation) or by contacting the Immunisation Section on 1300 232 272 during business hours. Alternatively you can report the reaction to your immunisation provider.

## Further information

For further information and advice about immunisation and pregnancy, speak to your midwife, doctor or immunisation provider.

Visit the Immunisation and Pregnancy page on the SA Health website at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation) or National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance at [www.ncirs.org.au](http://www.ncirs.org.au).

Reference: the Australian Immunisation Handbook at [immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au](http://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au)

