

Covid-19, vaccination and milk donation

Position of the Human milk banks French association (HMBFA)

There are two main types of vaccines: inactivated or live attenuated. All currently available Covid-19 vaccines in France are inactivated mRNA, or viral vector vaccines which use a modified version of a different, harmless virus. No adverse effects have been described during breastfeeding with this type of vaccine (*Anderson 2019*).

Systemic and milk passage of mRNA and viral vector is not expected (*CRAT 2021*). Since mRNA or viral vector vaccines are devoid of infectivity, the breastfed child is therefore not at risk of being infected by the vaccine given to his mother (*CRAT 2021*).

Pregnant and breastfeeding women are as immune as anyone else. The immune response is greater than that induced by natural infection. Antibodies pass from mother to child via the placenta and breast milk (*Gray 2021*).

COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for breastfeeding women because the potential benefits of maternal vaccination while breastfeeding outweigh the theoretical risks (*ACOG 2020, ABM 2020, CDC 2021, Rasmussen 2021*).

Getting vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 is not considered an exclusion criterion for donating milk (*Mayo 2021*)

April, 8th 2021

Jean-Charles Picaud, Delphine Lamireau, Virginie Rigourd, Cécile Boscher, Rachel Buffin, Fouzia Voirin, Solène LEFUR, Board of the Human milk banks French association (HMBFA)

References

- Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) statement: Considerations for COVID-19 vaccination in lactation. December 14, 2020. Available at: https://abm.memberclicks.net/abm-statement-considerations-for-covid-19-vaccination-in-lactation?fbclid=IwAR0LC26lCj_pJmpIHMa5QGdq9V8bN5XQsdIBYSyTXoYJMwqEP4SJIV2k5xw
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Practice Advisory. Vaccinating pregnant and lactating patients against COVID-19. December 13, 2020. Available at:

<https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/vaccinating-pregnant-and-lactating-patients-against-covid-19>

- Anderson PO. Maternal vaccination and breastfeeding. *Breastfeed Med*. 2019;14:215–7.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim clinical considerations for use of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States. 2021. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#pregnant>
- Centre de Référence sur les Agents Tératogènes (CRAT). Vaccins contre la Covid19-Grossesse et allaitement. 18 mars 2021. Available at: https://lecrat.fr/spip.php?page=article&id_article=1123
- Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2006–. COVID-19 vaccines. 2021 Mar 17. PMID: 33355732.
- Gray KJ, Bordt EA, Atyeo C, Deriso E, Akinwunmi B, Young N, Medina Baez A, Shook LL, Cvrk D, James K, De Guzman R, Brigida S, Diouf K, Goldfarb I, Bebell LM, Yonker LM, Fasano A, Rabi SA, Elovitz MA, Alter G, Edlow AG. COVID-19 vaccine response in pregnant and lactating women: a cohort study. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2021 Mar 24:S0002-9378(21)00187-3..
- Mayo S, Monfort S. Breastfeeding and COVID-19 Vaccine: Yes We Can. *J Hum Lact*. 2021 Mar 16:8903344211004443.
- Rasmussen SA, Jamieson DJ. Pregnancy, Postpartum Care, and COVID-19 Vaccination in 2021. *JAMA*. 2021 Mar 16;325(11):1099-1100.