



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin  
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National Women and Infants Health Programme  
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16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Deputy Barry,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ53271/21: To ask the Minister for Health the additional supports he will put in place to support midwives and other medical professionals in providing advice regarding the safety and positive features of the Covid-19 vaccines to pregnant women; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Barry,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

From the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) recommended that pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy be offered an mRNA vaccine following an individual benefit/risk discussion with their caregiver.

Since this recommendation, many resources have been made available to help support healthcare workers in communicating with people about the COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy. The HSE National Immunisation Office has developed a webpage signposting to specific information and resources for healthcare professionals on communicating with women on the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy (link below).

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/health-professional-information-covid-19-vaccine-and-pregnancy/health-professional-information-covid-19-vaccine-in-pregnancy.html>

This webpage includes resources from the World Health Organisation on how to communicate with women about the COVID-19 vaccines, as well as tips for communicating with pregnant women who may be unsure about COVID-19 vaccination. The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists together with the Rotunda Hospital and the National Immunisation Advisory Committee, have also developed resources to support healthcare workers when communicating with pregnant women, including a Q and A and a decision aid. This resource has been endorsed by the National Women and Infants Health programme (linked below).

<https://www.rcpi.ie/news/releases/information-for-women-who-are-pregnant-or-breastfeeding-about-the-covid-19-vaccine-update/>

In addition, there is a training programme for COVID-19 vaccination on [www.HSEland.ie](http://www.HSEland.ie) available to all healthcare workers

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and I**

I trust this clarifies the matter.