



DANISH HEALTH
AUTHORITY

Offers of vaccinations for pregnant women in the 2021/22 winter season

To protect you and your child, the Danish Health Authority recommends that you as a pregnant woman be vaccinated against influenza, pertussis (whooping cough) and COVID-19



Pertussis

What is pertussis?

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a usually harmless infection in older children and adults, but it can be serious in infants and often require hospitalisation. Pertussis is characterised by severe coughing fits, where the child 'wheezes' when breathing after a coughing fit.

Why does the Danish Health Authority recommend that pregnant women be vaccinated against pertussis?

Pertussis vaccination of pregnant women protects the newborn baby until the child can receive the first childhood vaccination at the age of three months. In fact, the baby receives the mother's antibodies through the placenta. At the same time, the mother is also protected against getting pertussis while the baby is very small – and thus against infecting the baby.

How and when will I be vaccinated?

The vaccine is given as a single injection, is free of charge for pregnant women in the second and third trimesters and is given by your own doctor. You must book an appointment yourself.

Influenza

What is influenza?

Influenza is a highly contagious viral infection, which, in pregnant women, newborns and young children, among others, may develop into severe illness such as pneumonia and result in hospitalisation. Influenza in the mother during pregnancy increases the risk of premature birth and decreased birth weight in the baby.

Why does the Danish Health Authority recommend that pregnant women be vaccinated against influenza?

Vaccination against influenza protects the pregnant woman against severe illness during pregnancy and the child against low birth weight and premature birth. At the same time, antibodies are transmitted to the baby through the placenta and during breastfeeding, which means that the baby is also protected during the first period after birth.

How and when will I be vaccinated?

Vaccination against influenza is given as a single injection and is free of charge for pregnant women in the second and third trimesters from October to February. You can book a vaccination appointment with your doctor, go to a pharmacy or contact the facility where you are usually vaccinated.

COVID-19

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the name of the disease caused by infection with novel coronavirus. Most pregnant women will have a mild course of illness, but some pregnant women risk becoming more severely ill. The risk of becoming severely ill is highest if, for example, you concurrently have diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular disease, are severely obese or older than 35. If the mother has COVID-19, it also increases the risk of premature birth.

Why does the Danish Health Authority recommend that pregnant women be vaccinated against COVID-19?

The Danish Health Authority recommends that pregnant women be vaccinated against COVID-19 because vaccination protects against severe illness in case of infection with novel coronavirus. The mother's antibodies are also transferred to the baby during pregnancy, and provide protection after birth and during breastfeeding.

How and when will I be vaccinated?

Vaccination against COVID-19 is given as two jabs at a certain interval and is free of charge for pregnant women in the second and third trimesters. You can be vaccinated at a regional vaccination centre. In addition, the regions also offer pop-up vaccination at, for example, educational institutions or in certain residential areas.

Consult your doctor or midwife if you have any questions. You can find further information on the Danish Health Authority's website

www.sst.dk/en/English

