RCOG COVID-19 vaccination guidance timeline

November 2020

The College wrote to the Prime Minister calling for research trials, supported by the Vaccine Taskforce, to urgently obtain evidence on safety of the vaccine in pregnant women

30 December 2020

The JCVI announce that pregnant women who are extremely clinically vulnerable or frontline health or social care workers, can have the vaccine after discussing the benefits and risks with a healthcare professional

Mid-January 2021

The RCOG and RCM produced an information leaflet and decision aid, as well as a series of Q&As, to help eligible pregnant women make an informed decision about accepting a vaccination

April 2021

Real-world data from the US shows 90,000 pregnant women have been vaccinated with no safety concerns raised

16 April 2021

The JCVI announced it would routinely offer all pregnant women the COVID-19 vaccine in line with the vaccine roll out plan for the UK

7 May 2021

RCOG and RCM express concern that pregnant women invited for vaccination are struggling with access

June 2021

120,000 pregnant women in the US have received mRNA vaccines with no safety concerns raised

15 July 2021

The RCOG and RCM issued a statement warning the increasing prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and hesitancy to get vaccinated will lead to a further increase in infections among pregnant women

22 July 2021

Public Health England (now the UK Health Security Agency) began publishing figures for vaccine uptake in pregnant women in England every 4 weeks in its weekly surveillance report

16 December 2021

The JCVI announce that pregnant women are now considered a 'vulnerable group' within the COVID-19 vaccination programme

8 December 2020

The vaccine programme launched in the UK but pregnant women are advised by JCVI not to have the vaccine until more information is available

Early January 2021

The RCOG established a Vaccine Subgroup of the RCOG/RCM Guidance Cell, to provide pregnant women and healthcare professionals with advice on counselling, vaccine delivery and data collection

19 January 2021

RCOG confirms no plausible way the COVID-19 vaccine will impact fertility

Early April 2021

The RCOG President and Vaccine Subgroup Chair presented a briefing paper to JCVI, making the recommendation to offer vaccination to all pregnant women in line with JCVI priority groups, noting that women can make an individualised decision based on benefits and risks

March and May 2021

The RCOG surveyed 1,500 pregnant women to seek their views on vaccine intention, which helped to inform JCVI and other partners

20 May 2021

Study published by the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit found that pregnant women who tested positive for COVID-19 in England at the time of birth had higher rates of stillbirth or a preterm birth

June 2021

At least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination was offered to all pregnant women in the UK over the age of 18

16 July 2021

In light of emerging evidence on vaccine safety, the RCOG and RCM updated its advice to 'strongly recommend' the vaccine in pregnancy from 'strongly consider'

October 2021

Data from NHS England showed nearly 20% of the most critically ill COVID-19 patients were unvaccinated pregnant women. Overall 98% of pregnant women in intensive care are unvaccinated. RCOG work with NHS England and BBC News on a media campaign to promote vaccine uptake

Throughout the vaccine roll out, the RCOG and the RCM have continued to advocate and press debate with relevant bodies, including the JCVI, on a range of issues around vaccination in pregnancy, including thrombosis risk, dose schedule and booster jabs.

