

NVOG, NVK and KNOV call pregnant women to get vaccinated

Gynaecologists, clinical obstetricians and paediatricians notice that the number of pregnant women with COVID-19 on the intensive care units has doubled. They also observe an increase in the number of premature babies on the NICU. That is the reason why the NVOG, NVK and KNOV again call pregnant women to get vaccinated during any time of the pregnancy with an mRNA-vaccine.

“What strikes us most at the moment, is that from the time a pregnant woman is getting any of the symptoms of COVID, the progression of the disease is much faster than before”, says gynaecologist Prof. Dr. Christianne de Groot, spokesperson of the NVOG. “A pregnant woman is currently evolving more quickly into a serious situation, which means admission to the IC. This is a clear difference compared to the first wave.” Paediatrician Dr. Károly Illy adds: “As a consequence, a baby has to be delivered at an earlier stage in the pregnancy, sometimes even at 26 weeks, and ends up at the NICU. We see this happen increasingly more often and gives rise to enormous concerns.”

International research confirms that pregnant women with COVID-19 are at greater risk of developing a serious progression of the disease, affecting the woman and her child. In addition, international research has demonstrated that getting vaccinated does not harm the pregnant woman nor her unborn child and that it strongly reduces the likelihood of getting seriously ill. The same applies to women who intend to become pregnant. Vaccination does not affect the fertility. This is confirmed by Prof. Dr. Corine Verhoeven, obstetrician, who is calling pregnant women to get vaccinated, not only for their own health but also for the health of their child. “Should you previously have made the choice not to get vaccinated, please reconsider that decision and discuss your concerns with your obstetrician or gynaecologist.”

The following resources may provide some help for pregnant women to weigh the decision to get vaccinated:

- Information card on whether or not to get vaccinated against Corona during the pregnancy, October 2021
- Point of view of the NVOG and KNOV

