

Now, its **the turn** of lactating and pregnant **mothers**



Bahrain offers two types of COVID-19 vaccines for lactating and pregnant mothers

● Vaccines developed by China's National Pharmaceutical Group, Sinopharm, and Pfizer and BioNTech are okayed

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Two types of COVID-19 vaccines are now available for inoculating pregnant and lactating individuals here in the Kingdom.

The move comes amid concerning reports that pregnancy heightens the risk of severe Coronavirus infection and that pregnant women have a greater need for protection.

Dr Maryam Ibrahim Al-Hajri, the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health at the Ministry of Health, said the committee had approved two types of vaccines for inoculating breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women. Dr Al-Hajri is the chair of the Health Ministry's Vaccination

Committee.

Bahrain picked vaccines developed by China's National Pharmaceutical Group, Sinopharm, and Pfizer and BioNTech for the purpose.

Bahrain's approval follows a recommendation by the World Health Organisation and the Centres for Disease Control in the United States of America.

Dr Anthony Fauci, head of infectious diseases at the National Institutes of Health, said in a recent briefing that researchers have seen "no red flags" so far from the 20,000 pregnant women participating in a federal tracking effort.

According to reports, mRNA vaccines are administered during pregnancy as they do not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 and, therefore, cannot give someone COVID-19. Additionally, mRNA vaccines do not interact with a person's DNA because the mRNA does not enter a cell nucleus. Cells break down the mRNA quickly.

Dr Al-Hajri also pointed out: "Breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women are among

the groups most vulnerable to complications from the Coronavirus."

"Vaccination will help them prevent the infection or its complications, especially in light of the rapid spread of the new mutated strain."

While vaccination remains a personal choice, people who are pregnant and part of a group recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, such as healthcare personnel, may choose to be vaccinated.

"For, it is highly-necessary to strengthen the immunity of breastfeeding and pregnant mother against the virus," said Dr Al-Hajri.

Lactating mothers and pregnant women can register through the website healthalert.gov.bh or other authorised applications.

The official said that the vaccination is optional, "but a necessity to keep everyone healthy."

CDC says, "There are neither data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in lactating women nor on the effects of mRNA vaccines on the breastfed infant or milk

production/excretion." "mRNA vaccines are not thought to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant. People who are breastfeeding and are part of a group recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, such as healthcare personnel, may choose to be vaccinated."

Five COVID-19 vaccines

Bahrain on Thursday approved a new single-dose coronavirus vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson.

The authorisation makes Bahrain the first nation in the world to authorise Janssen Covid-19, the one-shot vaccine for general use.

Bahrain's move comes a day after US regulators concluded the shot offers strong protection against severe COVID-19.

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) said it would dole out the vaccine shots "to elderly, people with chronic diseases and other categories determined by the Health Ministry."

The approval for Janssen Covid-19 Vaccine also brings the

number of vaccines available in Bahrain for inoculation to five.

Bahrain already uses the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, one manufactured by Chinese state-backed pharmaceutical giant Sinopharm, India's Covishield (the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine) and Russia's Sputnik V vaccine.

Bahrain is providing coronavirus vaccine jab free of cost for citizens and residents.

COVID-19 measures extended for three more months

Bahrain also extended the mandatory COVID-19 pre-cautionary measures for an additional three months from 28 February 2021. The move also follows the recommendations of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19).



The CDC has designated pregnant people as a group with increased risk of contracting severe COVID-19.

5 times riskier

COVID-19 patients who are pregnant are estimated to be five times more likely to need intensive care or a ventilator than those who aren't.

Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines don't contain the live virus. They use a fragment of genetic material, called messenger RNA, that instructs cells to build the "spike" protein found on the virus surface that the immune system learns to fight off. The vaccines cannot cause infection.



Man makes narrow escape from near-fatal crash

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The man driving this vehicle should consider himself extremely lucky.

For, anyone who takes even a glance at his mangled car would find it hard to believe that he managed to escape unscathed.

The person - a Bahraini national - was driving through the Gulf of Bahrain Road near the Bahrain International Circuit in Zallaq when the accident occurred.

Police said the car involved in the accident came from the Manama side.

The man blamed the accident on a sudden turn made by a vehicle from its lane ahead of him.

He said, "I lost control of the



According to police, the driver of the vehicle blamed the accident on a sudden turn made by a vehicle from its lane ahead of him

"I lost control of the vehicle, and in panic, rammed into the lamp post."

DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE

vehicle, and in panic, rammed into the lamp post."

Such was the impact that the lamppost, pierced through the left corner of the car, ended up jutting out of the engine bay.

Police said they took necessary measures and had opened an investigation into the circumstances leading to the accident. No other vehicles were involved in the accident.