

# INPLASY PROTOCOL

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**Conflicts of interest:**  
None declared.

## COVID-19 vaccine uptake among pregnant persons: A systematic review protocol

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**Review question / Objective:** To evaluate the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant persons

**Condition being studied:** Pregnant persons are susceptible to infectious diseases that increase adverse pregnancy outcomes. CDC recommends that pregnant women get the inactivated flu vaccine, the Tdap vaccine, and the recently introduced COVID-19 vaccine.

**Information sources:** PubMed/Medline and CINAHL databases, and the Google Scholar search engine. We also reviewed reference lists of identified articles to find other related articles.

**INPLASY registration number:** This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 22 April 2023 and was last updated on 22 April 2023 (registration number INPLASY202340079).

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective:** To evaluate the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant persons.

**Rationale:** Pregnancy is an independent risk factor for severe COVID-19 illness. World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and professional organizations recommend COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant persons

to prevent adverse outcomes. However, pregnancy decreases the acceptance rate of vaccination. Thus, the estimation of COVID-19 vaccine uptake among pregnant population is of great importance.

**Condition being studied:** Pregnant persons are susceptible to infectious diseases that increase adverse pregnancy outcomes. CDC recommends that pregnant women get the inactivated flu vaccine, the Tdap

vaccine, and the recently introduced COVID-19 vaccine.

## METHODS

**Search strategy:** This systematic review is carried out in accordance to PRISMA guidelines. PubMed/Medline and CINAHL databases, and the Google Scholar search engine are screened from inception to 22 March 2023.

**Search:** Search: (((((((("covid-19 vaccines"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("covid-19"[MeSH Terms])) OR ("SARS-CoV-2"[MeSH Terms])) OR ("coronavirus"[MeSH Terms])) OR ("covid-19 vaccine"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("covid-19 vaccination"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("coronavirus vaccination"[Title/Abstract]) AND (english[Filter] OR greekmodern[Filter])) AND (("pregnancy"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("pregnant women"[MeSH Terms]) AND (english[Filter] OR greekmodern[Filter]))) AND (((("vaccination coverage"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("prevalence"[MeSH Terms])) OR ("vaccination status"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("vaccination coverage"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("immunization coverage"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("vaccine acceptance"[Title/Abstract]) AND (english[Filter] OR greekmodern[Filter])) Filters: English, Greek, Modern.

**Participant or population:** Pregnant persons independent of the semester of pregnancy.

**Intervention:** None.

**Comparator:** None.

**Study designs to be included:** Cross-sectional studies.

**Eligibility criteria:** English written, quantitative cross-sectional articles that report COVID-19 vaccine uptake in pregnant persons.

**Information sources:** PubMed/Medline and CINAHL databases, and the Google Scholar search engine. We also reviewed reference

lists of identified articles to find other related articles.

**Main outcome(s):** COVID-19 vaccination uptake.

**Data management:** Data extraction form.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis:** The risk of bias assessment is being conducted according to the Joanna Briggs Institute critical appraisal tool.

**Strategy of data synthesis:** A data extraction form is used to collect the following information: author(s), year of publication, country of the study, study title, study design, study setting, participants' characteristics, sample size, COVID-19 vaccination, number of vaccine doses, COVID-19 vaccine type, outcome(s), and conclusion(s). A narrative synthesis is used to analyze studies included in this review. This approach synthesizes data from multiple sources and uses text to summarize and explain findings.

**Subgroup analysis:** None reported.

**Sensitivity analysis:** None reported.

**Language restriction:** English.

**Country(ies) involved:** Greece.

**Keywords:** pregnant persons; COVID-19; vaccination; uptake.

### Contributions of each author:

**Author 1 - Panagiota Kalatzi -** Contributed to the design and implementation of the systematic review, to the analysis of the results and to the writing of the manuscript.

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**Author 2 - Maria Iliadou -** Contributed to the design and implementation of the systematic review, to the analysis of the results and to the writing of the manuscript.

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