

Covid-19, vaccination and milk donation

Position of the Human milk banks French association (HMBFA)

There are two main types of vaccines: inactivated or live attenuated. All currently available Covid-19 vaccines in France are inactivated mRNA, or viral vector vaccines. No adverse effects have been described during breastfeeding with this type of vaccine (*Anderson 2019*).

Systemic and milk passage of mRNA and viral vector is not expected (*CRAT 2021*). Since mRNA or viral vector vaccines are devoid of infectivity, the breastfed child is therefore not at risk of being infected by the vaccine given to his mother (*CRAT 2021*).

Pregnant and breastfeeding women are as immune as anyone else. The immune response is greater than that induced by natural infection. Antibodies pass from mother to child via the placenta and breast milk (*Gray 2021*).

COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for breastfeeding women because the potential benefits of maternal vaccination while breastfeeding outweigh the theoretical risks (*ACOG 2020, ABM 2020, CDC 2021, Rasmussen 2021*).

Getting vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 is not considered an exclusion criterion for donating milk (*Mayo 2021*)

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