

Pregnant women urged not to stay mum on COVID vaccine

A Central Queensland doctor specialising in women's health is urging women who are pregnant as well as new Mums to get the COVID vaccination before the Queensland border opens next month.

Rockhampton GP Dr Helen Wiltshire said pregnant women are especially vulnerable when it comes to COVID infection, yet vaccination rates among this group remain low.

"Pregnant women are at greater risk of severe disease, hospitalisation and admission to the intensive care unit, ventilation and even death as a result of COVID than the general population," Dr Wiltshire said.

"That's because they're already what we call clinically vulnerable and there might be additional issues that crop up during pregnancy, like gestational diabetes.

"We know a positive COVID diagnosis is more dangerous after 28 weeks, and there is an increased risk of premature birth and stillbirth.

"Having a baby can already be an anxious time, particularly for first time parents, but having a COVID vaccine can protect you and bub from severe symptoms, and the long-term effects of what's being called 'long COVID'."

All COVID vaccines currently approved by the TGA are safe for use during pregnancy.

In the United States alone, more than 130,000 pregnant women have already been given either two doses of Moderna or Pfizer without any concerns.

To book a COVID-19 vaccination near you, search the words 'vaccine clinic finder' online.

Dr Helen Wiltshire is available for interview:

Wednesday 17 November 2021 before 3pm

Thursday 18 November 2021 between 9am and 1.30pm

***** ENDS *****

**For more information contact: Jasmin Midgley, Senior Media and Communications Officer,
Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN on 0451 300 050.**