

21.07.19

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of St. Saviour will ask the following question of the Minister for Health and Social Services –

“Will the Minister advise what plans are currently in place to protect clinically vulnerable Islanders from the continuing effects of Covid-19, including pregnant women and their babies?” WQ.164/2021

**The following response was provided in writing in accordance with Standing Order 63(9) as the oral question was not asked before the end of the time allowed for Oral Questions:**

The best protection for all Islanders can be achieved through vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccines available in Jersey have been shown to be effective and to have a good safety profile. Those in higher risk categories are strongly encouraged to take up the offer of a COVID-19 vaccination and to encourage family and friends they spend time with to be vaccinated also. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised all pregnant women to get vaccinated when eligible. COVID-19 vaccines offer pregnant women the best protection against COVID-19 disease which can be serious in later pregnancy for some women.

Vaccination will reduce the risk and severity of infection and long COVID (reducing the risk of fatigue when needing to look after a new baby). Severe disease is more likely in the third trimester partly because of the pressure of the growing baby on the lungs. Taking precautions pending vaccination especially in the third trimester is important. I would remind everyone of the importance of allowing fresh air in to homes and workplaces, frequently washing and sanitising hands, and trying to keep a distance from anyone they do not live with as part of new guidance and extended measures to keep Islanders safe this summer.