

# SMOKING AND CORONAVIRUS

## Advice for parents

### #QuitForCovid

## Q How does smoking during pregnancy impact my baby?

Smoking or being exposed to secondhand smoke during pregnancy significantly increases your risk of **miscarriage, stillbirth** or having a **premature or unwell baby**.

Quitting smoking is the most effective way to **protect your child** from the harms of tobacco smoke.

## Q Does smoking increase my risk from coronavirus?

As a precautionary measure, the government has classed pregnant women as a group at risk of **severe illness** from coronavirus.

Evidence suggests smokers who contract coronavirus are more likely to need **intensive care** than non-smokers.

Smoking damages your lungs and weakens your immune system. This makes it more likely that you will have **complications** if you get sick and **take longer to recover**.

## Q Can I get help to quit from my midwife?

**Yes.** Your midwife should:

1. **Provide you with information** about the risks of smoking and benefits of quitting for you and **your baby**.
2. **Refer you** to a specialist stop smoking service. This service can provide you with **support and advice** via telephone/Skype/Facetime and may be able send you **stop smoking medications** and vouchers in the post. They should also be able to give you advice about **using an e-cigarette** to quit smoking.

Find support and local services at: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

## Q How can I keep my home smokefree?

You can use **nicotine replacement products** (e.g. patches or gum) or **e-cigarettes** to protect yourself and your family from harmful cigarette smoke.

If you need to smoke you should take **at least 7 steps outside** to stop smoke drifting inside.

smoking in pregnancy  
challenge group ●